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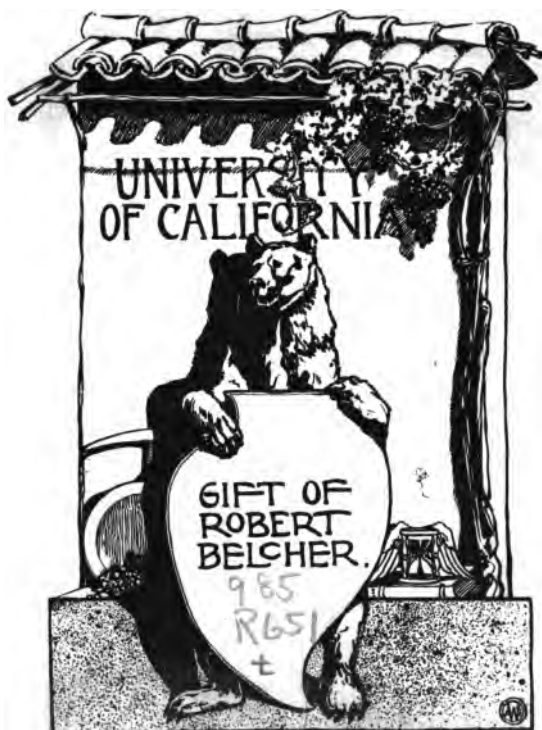
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THROUGH PAINTED  
PANES & *OTHER POEMS*

LOUIS ALEXANDER ROBERTSON

YC 14420

Calif.







**Through Painted Panes**  
*And Other Poems*

#### NOTE

Most of the poems in this collection have been taken from "The Dead Calypso," "Beyond the Requiem," "Cloistral Strains," and "From Crypt and Choir."

All the unsold copies and plates of these books were destroyed by the great fire.

Several long poems, and some sonnets, rondeaux, and other minor forms, appear here for the first time.







*Photograph by Arnold Genthe, San Francisco.*

*Louis A. Robertson*

Through Painted Panes  
*And Other Poems*

By

Louis Alexander Robertson



A. M. Robertson

San Francisco

1907

*Book*

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*1907*



TO  
JAMES DUVAL PHELAN  
AN ABLE MAN AND LOYAL CITIZEN

I INSCRIBE THIS BOOK  
WITH THE FOLLOWING LINES

*RESURGAM*

(CHANT ROYAL)

*The cataclysmal force to which we owe  
Our glorious Gate of Gold, through which the sea  
Rushed in to clasp these shores long, long ago,  
Came once again to crown our destiny  
With such a grandeur that in sequent years  
This period of pain which now appears  
Pregnant with doubt, shall vanish as when day  
Drives the foreboding dreams of night away.  
Born of the womb of Woe, where Sorrow sighs,  
Fostered by Faith, undaunted by Dismay,  
Earth's fairest City shall from ashes rise.*

## RESURGAM

*Portentous of her lasting overthrow,  
Scarce forty fateful seconds seemed to be;  
And when the stars had faded in the glow  
Of the bright baleful after-blaze, though she  
Shed for some harrowing hours the tristful tears  
Which showed her heart was torn, the Soul that cheers  
And drives Despair forth from the creature clay,  
Glowed in her breast and did to her display  
Great stately structures soaring to the skies;  
If from our cosmic creed we do not stray,  
Earth's fairest City shall from ashes rise.*

*Garbed with chaste Grecian beauty she shall grow;  
Her white hand holds Fortuna's fate-forged key  
To where a world's ships, speeding to and fro,  
Shall pause and pay a rich restoring fee;  
Corruption, greed, and everything that bears  
A semblance to them, every thought that sears  
The heart and seeks the conscience to betray,  
Should die ere born, lest later on Decay  
Destroy the fabric seen with Fancy's eyes.  
If we our crime-condemning laws obey,  
Earth's fairest City shall from ashes rise.*

*When first her burning tears began to flow,  
Her sapphire surges sobbed with sympathy;  
The hosts of heaven heard their wail of woe  
And chanted a responding threnody;*

## RESURGAM

*The weeping waves, the mystic midnight spheres  
Dispelled her doubts and drove away her fears  
Of doomful dawns. Almighty God, are they  
Not Baal's blind and blatant priests who say  
The seismic curse was Thine? Thy Voice replies,  
"Heed not the heresy they preach and pray,  
Earth's fairest City shall from ashes rise."*

*Ofttimes from Shasta's cloud-kissed crest of snow,  
Soul-winged, I sail o'er river, grove, and lea  
To where I hear old Triton's trumpet blow,—  
Where from the tide the wave-wombed Deity  
Rises resplendent; with enraptured ears  
The Goatfoot's pure prophetic pipes she hears;  
Bacchus awaits her from the sparkling spray,  
His vine-bound brow on her white breast to lay;  
In one great hymn their voices harmonize,  
This message doth the melody convey,—  
Earth's fairest City shall from ashes rise.*

## ENVOY

*Thou demon Fate, that erstwhile sought to slay  
And scourge us to the death, thou canst not slay  
The faith that every future blow defies;  
Though we thy stealthy steps can never stay,  
Earth's fairest City shall from ashes rise.*



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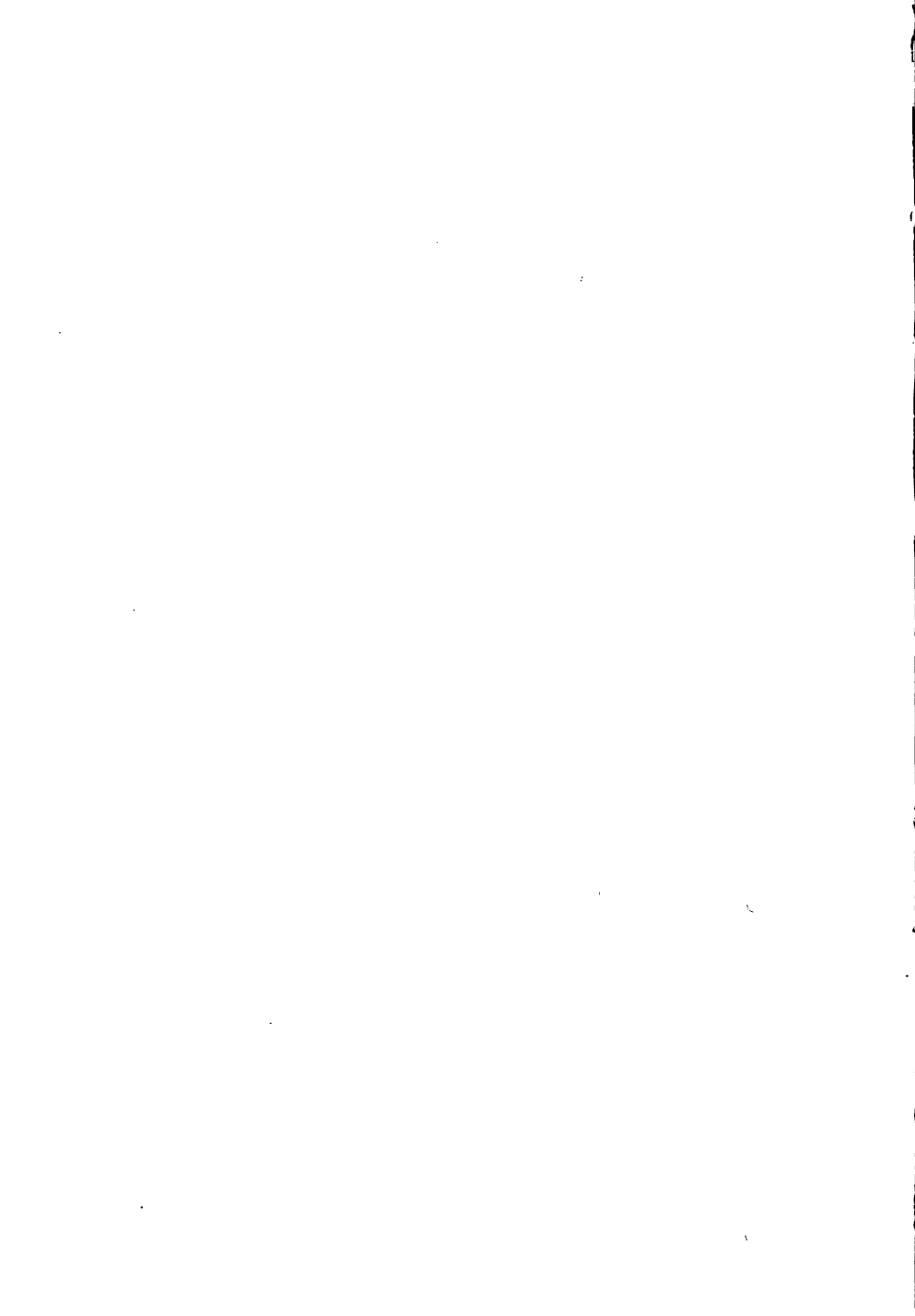


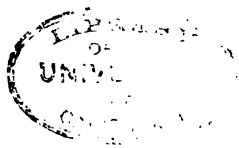
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## THROUGH PAINTED PANES

THROUGH painted panes a glory flows  
And over aisle and altar throws  
    Soft floods of crimson, blue, and gold,  
    Till silent forms, in sculpture stoled,  
Seem waking from a long repose.

Ah, how the tinted marble glows!  
For every cheek now wears a rose,  
    And each white face seems aureoled  
        Through painted panes.

These weird word-weavers who disclose  
Strange things to us in rhyme or prose,  
    Who conjure up the dead and cold,  
    Or Life's great varied page unfold,  
Their art is but a light that shows  
        Through painted panes.

## THE SONNET

As often in some grand and ancient fane  
A devotee will kneel him down to pray  
At one familiar shrine day after day,  
And to his guardian saint his woes complain;  
There, while his fingers tell the beaded chain,  
His soul in ecstasy drifts far away,  
Till back returning with the vesper strain,  
It enters once again its home of clay.

So in the cloistered corridors of Song  
There is one altar where I love to kneel;  
Tho' humblest of the worshipers who throng  
Its narrow space, yet there I often steal,  
And in the Sonnet's sacred chalice pour  
My tears and prayers until I weep no more.

## THE SHRINE OF SONG

IN mute amazement oft I pause before  
The portals of Song's shrine and list to those  
Whose music from its classic cloisters flows  
Adown the tide of Time forevermore.  
I see the place that no man may explore,  
Save him whose Art its life to Genius owes,  
On whose rapt lips the sacred cinder glows  
That teaches Song's sweet shibboleth and lore.

Ah, it were heaven to enter in and kneel  
In some dim aisle, unnoticed and apart,  
With thirsting soul to drink the psalms  
that shame  
My songs to silence; then to rise and feel  
That my untutored lips had learnt the art  
That seats the singer in the House of  
Fame.

## EURYDICE

How Orpheus must have thrilled thy captive soul,  
When, facing Dis, thy freedom to obtain,  
He struck the classic chords, the master strain  
That made rocks reel and rivers backward roll!  
Hell's tortured heroes heard his harp extol  
Thy matchless worth, till they forgot their pain,  
And turned, one glimpse of thy fair face to gain,  
As after him they saw thee earthward stroll.

Persephone sat silent while he played,  
Then whispered to her lord to set thee free;  
Dis nodded, and the heavy gates of Hell  
Swung swift and wide, while Cerberus obeyed  
The taming tune; then Orpheus turned to see  
If thou wert safe, and heard thee cry "Farewell!"

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

THE lyre she loved to hear on Earth rang  
through the halls of Hell,

The gloom became a golden dawn, the streams  
of Sorrow turned

To rippling silver as she dropped Death's fading  
asphodel,

Then in her tear-wet pallid cheeks Love's  
crimson roses burned.

'T was the harp of her husband she heard in  
the distance,

'T was the lute he had waked as a lover to  
woo her,

And it called through the shades with the  
searching insistence

Of a rapturing, rescuing summons that drew  
her

Through the dark to where Acheron's waters  
were sobbing,

But their sob seemed a psalm to the souls  
that were greeting,



## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

And a hymn to the hearts that together were  
throbbing,

Till they rose and went onward, his lute-  
strings entreating

Mighty Dis for the guerdon that none had been  
granted,

Save his Queen, who sat by him, Demeter's  
sad daughter;

How her soul with the cry of those chords was  
enchanted!

What a vision of Earth and of Enna they  
brought her!

Nearer and clearer and louder and prouder  
echoed his strains, till the cries and the  
clamor

Made by the hapless were hushed into silence,  
lost in the silver-tongued tones that re-  
sounded,—

That rang to the roof of that palace infernal,  
till through the gloom that had grown  
to a glamour,

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

Throned 'neath a blazing and bright borealis,  
Dis he beheld with his subjects surrounded.

He paused before the throne;  
His hand fell from the strings,  
Still trembling with the tone,  
The spell that Music flings  
Over the hardest heart;

Yea, though it be of stone,  
The tears of Grief will start,  
If it Love's lips hath known  
And lost them as he lost

Those of Eurydice,  
When Aristæus crossed  
Her path upon the lea;  
When from his arms she sprang,  
Her loyal lips to save,  
But felt the serpent's fang  
And faced the wailing wave.

No need had he to speak a single word,  
They knew his story well;

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

The throb within the harpings they had heard  
Told more than tongue could tell;  
But all as deaf as to the clamoring hordes,  
Who gathered near,  
Was Dis unto the pure and peerless chords  
Zeus loved to hear,  
Until his Queen  
Did closer lean  
And whisper in his ear:—  
“By all the pledges thou hast given me,  
Give Orpheus back his bride, Eurydice.”

He looked on her and said, “Yea, for thy sake  
I’ll yield me now.” And thus to Orpheus spake:—  
“If thou hast in thy soul  
The courage to control  
The love that led thee hither, listen well;  
Thy bride may follow thee  
Back to thine Arcady,  
But till both pass the lordly gates of Hell,  
Give not one backward glance  
To her, but still advance,

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

Guide her to where your glowing roses bloom;  
But if thou disobey  
My mandate, she shall stray  
Back to the home that waits her in the gloom."

Clear as the fluted notes that Philomel  
Hymns to the midnight moon,  
Sweet as the low wave-whisper in a shell,  
Such was the silver tune  
That Orpheus conjured from his chords at first,  
To thank the Lord of Hell;  
Then from his waked, exulting lyre there burst  
An antiphonic swell  
Of melody that thro' those sunless regions rolled,  
Ere to earth's fragrant fields he and his loved  
one strolled.

Dis listened with derision to the strain  
That thrilled his captive Queen, Persephone;  
For her it made the sombre shadows wane,—  
Charmed by its weird soul-waking witchery,  
She heard the murmur of Sicilian streams,  
And saw the sacred meadow of her dreams.

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

The song that spirit unto spirit sings  
Then mingled with the music of the strings  
That Orpheus struck, Eurydice to guide  
Forth from the gloom to where her virgin vows  
were sighed.

Sweet as the croon of the doves of Dodona,  
cooing and wooing, his harmonies called  
her,

Moving like one in a dream she obeyed them,  
light seemed the cold lethal links that  
enthralled her;

Far in the azure the lark whistled to her, borne  
on the breeze came the fragrance of  
flowers,

Soon with her lover she'll couch in the clover,  
dreaming through Passion's sweet sen-  
suous hours.

His harp sang of the bees,  
And of the warbling birds  
That nested in the trees  
Above the sleeping herds;

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

Then one clear conjuring cadence crowned his  
lyre,  
And Arcady seemed near, home of her heart's  
desire.

Lulled by his lute-strings, Hell's mighty immor-  
tals paused to behold her as onward she  
wended;

Cerberus leaped like a lamb from his kennel,  
fawned on the lily-white hand she ex-  
tended;

Followed her on, as she followed her lover,  
led by the lute that had ne'er known  
denial,

Till Orpheus drew near the ponderous portals,  
looked on the sunlight, and then came  
the trial.

Oh, how his triumphing harp-strings then  
trembled! Fair were the streams and  
the meadows that faced him,

Where, in the first fervid faith of her girlhood,  
glowing Eurydice's white arms embraced  
him.

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

Oh, what a breath of ambrosial sweetness fanned  
her fair cheek! What a halo of splendor  
Shone through the gloom on her golden corym-  
bus! How those clear chords compelled  
all things to render

Homage to her, as when Dis was persuaded to  
give her again to the arms of her lover,  
If he could lead her, and never look backward,  
out of the gloom to their couch in the  
clover!

The gates of Hell he gained,  
A single step remained  
To set his loved one free;  
But ere that port was passed,  
A glance he backward cast  
And saw Eurydice,

With outstretched hands, into the darkness fade;  
Oh, what a price for that last look was paid!

Sun, that shinest in the bluest skies that over  
Earth e'er bended,  
And ye mystic stars of midnight, and thou  
wanton, wandering moon!

## ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

Ye were watchers, ye were list'ners, when his  
quest for her was ended,

Whisper to us through the ages, tell us if  
some tristful tune

Sobbed within the strings to soothe him, or if—  
like a peal of thunder—

Some swift harmony revengeful 'gainst the  
gates of Hell he poured?

Was it pride, or was it passion, that impelled  
him to the blunder,

When her heart, with love responding, broke  
to hear the crowning chord?



## PROSERPINA

DAUGHTER of Ceres, throned within the shade  
Of Hell's black arches, ever gazing through  
The gloom to where, wet with the morning dew,  
The violet greets the sun in Enna's glade;  
Year after year it flourishes to fade,  
But thro' the mists of time thy face we view,  
As fair as when great Pluto paused to woo,  
When at thy side his foaming steeds were stayed.

The fragrant fields of sea-girt Sicily,  
That bloomed beneath thy feet, have barren grown,  
And all the music of her streams is still;  
The birds sit mute on every withered tree,  
With thistles now that velvet sward is sown,  
The winds that wantoned with thy hair are chill.



## THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE OLD BALLADE

OF all the tangled tropes that tell  
Of love, or hate, or joy, or pain,  
In sonnet, rondeau, villanelle,  
Or ode, or epic, or quatrain,  
Or any other kind of strain,  
Or light, or heavy, gay, or sad,  
To bring a boon, or balk a bane,  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

Its single cymbal suits me well,  
But when I sound the clanging twain,  
Then Pegasus begins to smell  
The battle, and he shakes his mane;  
No need of spur, I give him rein;  
Think ye that he's a patient pad?  
To make him gallop for his grain  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

**THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE OLD BALLADE**

Did not rash Villon in his cell,  
Hard by the sobbing waves of Seine,  
Deaf to the dooming, dismal bell,  
And all unmindful of his chain,  
There carol forth a rare refrain  
That comes to us with glory clad?  
If rhyme could rid him of his stain,  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

For from his reckless lips there fell  
Such glowing gems, that Glory's fane,  
Wherein the world's immortals dwell,  
Doth many a less than he contain.  
The prude may treat him with disdain,  
She neither can detract nor add,  
For beauty did a champion gain;  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

The high-born maiden's heart will swell,  
And think the whispered vow inane  
Sweet as the voice of Philomel,  
When Poesy hath made it plain;

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE OLD BALLADE

See yonder awkward stammering swain!  
His simple song makes Chloe glad;  
When tongues are tied, and vows are vain,  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

The tune that Triton taught the shell,  
Sung by the surge and hurricane;  
The lute of Orpheus, 'neath whose spell  
We, like the Grecians, long have lain;  
Pan's pipes that filled the shepherd's brain  
With melody that made him mad,  
All live, so why should Villon wane?  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

ENVOY

Prince! though this tantalizing skein  
Of rhyme hath less of good than bad,  
A cup to Villon let us drain,  
There's nothing like the old ballade.

## ART

THOU breathest on the cold insensate stone,  
And lo! it throbs with immortality;  
The canvas, with thy conjuring pigments strown,  
Glow with a beauty that will never die;  
The deepest fountains of the heart run dry  
When o'er the trembling strings thy hand is  
thrown,  
And when we hear thy tongue's rich sorcery,  
We know not why we laugh, or weep, or moan.

We know not why, nor do we care to know  
Where rise the waters of that mystic stream  
Which bears the spirit onward in its flow,  
Till, all unconscious of the clay, we seem  
To feel the breath of an ambrosial breeze,  
And drift with it o'er dreamy sapphire seas.

## PHRYNE

### A DREAM

WHEN thou wert with me in the waking hours  
Of those delirious but degrading days  
Now gone forever; or when on my breast,  
Pillowed in slumber, thy fair cheek was laid,  
Whether it was that each enchanted sense  
Was drugged so deeply with thy sorcery,  
Or whether thy warm lips in whispers low,  
Unheard by me, murmured unto my heart,  
“Why dream of me when I am by thy side?”  
I cannot say; but through those after hours—  
The sequent drowsy intervals when Love  
Languished a little ere it waked again—  
I never saw thy face come to console,  
Or mock me in my sleep as now, when I  
Turn in the dark with dream-deluded lips  
To kiss the pillow pressed by thee no more.

## PHRYNE

Sometimes as fair as Eos, when she flings  
The sombre curtains of the night apart  
To beam in beauty on a sleeping world,  
Dost thou appear to me; yea, I have felt  
The pressure and the passion of thy lips,  
And even heard them whisper as of old.

One night I dreamt that I was one among  
A multitude of people gathered in  
The city Cecrops founded; I beheld  
A spacious place, circled with shrines and fanes,  
Ornate with chiseled treasures that were brought  
From classic shades to crown a pagan rite  
With a reflected glory of the day  
That dawned when Aphrodite trod the seas.

In the mute language that the dreamer speaks,  
I questioned one who stood near me to learn  
The meaning of the mighty concourse there;  
He pointed to an empty pedestal  
Standing between two sculptured effigies  
Of wave-wombed Cytherea; one revealed  
A carved conceit of unimpassioned Love,

## PHRYNE

The other was a marble dream of Lust.  
Upon the right the chaste Ourania sat,  
A milk-white dove upon her whiter breast,  
And on her brow the sacred myrtle leaves.  
Upon the left Euplœa stood, as when  
The Cnidian youth stole to her in the dark,  
And stained her snowy bosom with the blood  
Of lips that crushed her marble mouth in vain.

Then mystic hymns, such as are only heard  
In the domain of an englamouring dream,  
Rolled from the opening portals of a fane  
In which a throng of priestesses appeared,  
Led by a priest; a woman with them walked,  
Hooded and masked, garbed in a purple robe  
That swept the shining tiles on which she trod  
With slow and stately step, until she came  
And paused in silence at the vacant plinth.

Then did the priest proclaim that she was one  
In whom the best and basest elements  
Mingled together in a breast on which  
E'en Zeus himself had been content to rest.



## PHRYNE

He also told that listening host that she  
Possessed the cestus Cytherea wore,—  
The conquering charm that no man may resist;  
He said it was a flavor of the flesh  
Found only in a few, and only when  
Some face, some form, and, it may be, some voice  
Combine with it to kindle in the blood  
The rabies of a desperate desire.  
He said, as well, she loved to worship in  
Pandemos' shrine, then wander forth to give  
The sailormen of Salamis her lips.

Then turning from that eager throng to her,  
And pointing to the plinth, he said, "Ascend,  
Let us behold the breathing beauty which  
In after ages man shall turn to see,  
But through the dim deluding mists of time,  
For thou art one of those who have the power  
To prompt the chisel and the brush and pen,  
And gain an undeserved but deathless fame."

Still masked and robed, she in an instant scaled  
The waiting pedestal, where she remained

## PHRYNE

A mystery for a moment, but no more;  
For, at a sign, the robe fell from her form,  
The hood dropped off, the mask was flung aside,  
And Phryne stood in faultless beauty there.

The marble miracle of Phidias,  
The chaste Ourania, seemed to shrink away;  
The people cried with an applauding voice,—  
“Euplœa! O Euplœa!” For they saw  
In Phryne’s form the living counterpart  
Of one whose Parian beauty never paled,  
Until it met its breathing prototype,  
The matchless mistress of Praxiteles.

Then silence followed; as I looked on her,  
Methought I saw a likeness unto thee,  
And cried thy name aloud; a thousand tongues  
Chorused my cry and claimed thee as their own;  
Then in the clamor I awoke to find  
The dream as fleeting as thy faithless love.

## BY WESTERN SHORES

By Western Shores oft Triton blows  
His sounding shell, and she who rose  
All wet and wanton from the deep,  
To make man's pulse with passion leap,  
Here on the wave in beauty glows.

A herd upon the hillside lows,  
And where yon stream in music flows,  
There Pan is piping to his sheep,  
By Western Shores.

Here vine-crown'd Bacchus doth repose,  
And nymphs and satyrs, like to those  
Of Tempe, from the copses peep.  
Why for the fabled Lotus weep,  
When near the Poppy we may doze  
By Western Shores?

## THE MÆNAD

WHY call this fiction in thy face a blush,  
When that pure protest faded years ago?  
This is the fervid and precursive flush  
That makes the Mænad's cheek with crimson  
glow,—  
The rosy herald Passion sends to show  
That I the ripe grapes of thy lips may crush,  
Till thro' my veins more rapturing transports rush,  
Than from the richest sun-kissed clusters flow.

Love's chalice, garlanded with myrtle leaves,  
Is sweet to sip, but when Desire hath grown  
Drunk with the purple poppy-seeded wine  
Thy passion offers, then thy sorcery weaves  
The spell by Circe o'er Ulysses thrown,  
The charm that changed his comrades into  
swine.

## HELEN

THESE are the eyes in which proud Paris gazed,  
When fast across the dark Ægean sea  
He fled with Helen on the night when she  
Left Sparta's shore, and Menelaus raised  
The rescuing cry; then War's red beacon blazed,  
While Greece with all her glorious chivalry  
Dashed 'gainst the dauntless Dardan hosts to  
free  
The fair and faithless woman Homer praised.

Virtue hath rarely worn Fame's glittering crown;  
Where are the women of the past who reigned  
In spotless robes? Penelope, Lucrece,—  
Ah, God! how few! But Helen's glorious gown  
Defies the dust of ages, and though stained  
With Passion's grapes, gives glamour unto  
Greece.

## PROTEAN ZEUS

INTO a Satyr did the God degrade  
Himself to clasp Antiope an hour;  
Then, as a Bull he figured, to deflower  
Europa, deemed Phœnicia's fairest maid.  
Amphitryon's part he with Alcmena played;  
To Danaë he seemed a Golden Shower;  
In Dian's form Callisto he betrayed,  
And as a Flame entered Ægina's bower.

Once where Eurotas' murmuring waters flow,  
A frightened Swan sought Leda's sheltering  
breast;  
In his warm plumage, whiter than the snow,  
The crimson roses of her cheeks she pressed;  
From that immortal mingling Helen came,  
Whose beauty set the Trojan towers aflame.

## IN ABSENCE

I SIT with Pan beneath Arcadian trees  
And see the satyr and the nymph and faun;  
I look on dazzling Aphrodite drawn  
By dolphins over shining sapphire seas;  
I hear the tune of Triton in the breeze,  
Sad Philomel at night, the lark at dawn,  
But little power have they to appease  
My passion and my pain when thou art gone.

Yea, e'en the paths of Poesy seem bare  
Of all their beauty, for I fail to find  
In them the flowers whose fragrance once  
could fling  
A spell around me that defied despair,  
That made me deaf to Love, to Passion blind,  
But little consolation now they bring.

## THE THUNDER TUNE

THERE was music mingling with the thunder  
when the lightnings o'er Olympus flashed,  
And the gods who slumbered 'round their  
Master waked and heard the harmony that  
crashed

From the clouds that later hung o'er Ilion, and  
the dirge of her destruction roared,  
When her thronging hosts with those of Hellas  
for the beauty of a woman warred.

There was music mingling with the thunder, but  
it was the music of a dream,  
And, perchance, had passed away in silence, lost  
forever, but by Meles' stream

There was born a child around whose cradle  
all the Muses met, to whom they brought  
From Latona's son a silver-chorded harp to  
which in after years he taught



## THE THUNDER TUNE

The melodious and majestic measure, which a  
world with rapture ever hears,  
For the dreaming soul of sightless Homer saw  
the vision that to few appears.

Heard the music mingling with the thunder, and  
the pæan of the cloud-throned choir,  
Caught the meaning of the clamoring chorus,  
taught it to his ever-living lyre.

Few, as he, controlled the chords that summon  
back again the dust-dimmed days of old;  
Few e'er decked the dead in richer raiment,  
turned their faded garments into gold.

Then within the clouds the music slumbered,  
near a thousand years it silent slept,  
Till the graceful melodist of Mantua waked and  
struck the strings that Homer swept.

Then again we saw the calm Ægean ripple into  
rapture as his lyre  
Sent its silver strains across the waters, crimsoned  
with the red reflected fire

## THE THUNDER TUNE

Of the flaming falling towers of Ilion, ere  
Æneas unto Carthage came,  
Where for him the love-defeated Dido gave her  
faultless body to the flame.

Then there came a seeming endless silence,  
gleamings of the lightning, but no more,  
Till the lean-lipped melancholy Tuscan, wan-  
dering exiled by an alien shore,

Dreaming of old Portanari's daughter, saw the  
levin leap across the skies,

Heard the deafening thunder tune that followed,  
saw the Mantuan's guiding shade arise;

Trod with him the circling scenes of Torture,  
heard Hell's captives curse in frost and  
flame,

Garbed the spectres with a ghastly glory, shrined  
them in an everlasting fame.

Then the sleeping thunder-freighted fleeces  
drifted North and over Stratford's stream,  
Hovered there in silence for a season, ere they  
flashed the great prophetic gleam

## THE THUNDER TUNE

That foretold a measure more melodic than the  
dirge that Dante heard in Hell,  
Or the verse that Virgil made Æneas, or the  
hymn that Homer sang so well.

Little had he of the graceful Latin, less, or  
nothing, of the grander Greek,  
But his soul had listened to the sermons that the  
stones, the brooks, the breezes speak;

Nature's mystic voice for him grew vibrant, in  
its tones her mother tongue he heard,  
Then she gave him his unclouded crystals, made  
him master of the wizard word.

Through his clear uncompromising lenses Life  
is seen denuded, undisguised;  
In the glowing spectrum of his genius all its  
tints and tones are analyzed.

Pictured on his panoramic pages, strange im-  
perishable scenes appear;  
Through the gamut of his glorious music, won-  
drous cries and cadences we hear.

## THE THUNDER TUNE

In his songs the shrieking Saxon saga mingles  
with the matin of the lark,  
And the midnight plaint of Philomela lends a  
golden glory to the dark.

'Neath didactic Touchstone's masking motley,  
'neath the 'guising garb of Rosalind,  
All the lore of Life and Love is hidden, all  
their foibles and their faiths we find;

Never had a King a better kingdom than the  
banished Duke in Arden found;  
Little mourned he for his stolen sceptre, when  
he heard those leafy lanes resound

With the voices of his comrades chanting that  
Fate's quiver holds no hurtling dart  
That may not be blunted, bent, and broken  
'gainst the shield of a contented heart.

Hark! here comes the prince of pot-house  
heroes; watch the vine-born valor, wit, and  
craft

Rise and break like bubbles on the surface of  
the seas of sack which he has quaffed;

## THE THUNDER TUNE

O'er that tide he sailed with well-trimmed  
canvas, every breeze that blew was fair  
for him,

And, with Hamlet, Shylock, and Othello, Fal-  
staff hath a fame Time cannot dim.

Hear the protest 'gainst the quick quietus, when  
the demon whispered to the Dane,  
And then listen to the larger logic of the fervent  
phrases that contain

Such a creed, that Death's loud sudden sum-  
mons, or his faint procrastinated call,  
Wakes no fear in those who face the darkness  
with the words "The readiness is all!"

Woven with the figments of his fancy, 'mongst  
the many fibres there is one  
Which a woman's white ambitious fingers to a  
cord of cruel crimson spun;

This she threaded to Fate's flying shuttle, where  
it blent with paler woofs and warps,  
Till upon the loom the longed-for fabric faded  
to the graveclothes of a corpse.

## THE THUNDER TUNE

She had hoped to wear the royal raiment, as the  
    'witches' wizened lips had vowed,  
But Revenge and swift-winged Retribution  
    changed the promised purple to a shroud.

For the phantom dagger found the fingers of  
    the faithless Lord of Dunsinane,  
And the Wood of Birnam proved its portent  
    when the King was murdered by the Thane.

Hear the lonely lips of Mariana sigh for those  
    that sweetly were forsworn,  
Listen to her lute-strings as they tremble, learn  
    the deathless lyric that was born

Of a love that faced the darkling distance, as a  
    Rose a lofty Star will woo,  
Till it falls into her fragrant bosom, mirrored  
    in a drop of midnight dew.

All his airy nothings are eternal; when, in after  
    ages, naught remains  
Of Earth's proudest piles and fairest fabrics,  
    not a vestige of her vanished fanes,—

## THE THUNDER TUNE

When her sacred moss-grown shrines surrender  
unto Time, who ever on them glowers,  
Man shall see Titania in the moonlight, crown  
the Weaver with unfading flowers.

## THE CALIFORNIAN REDWOODS

ERE over Nilus' waking wave the strain  
Of Memnon's morning melody was blown;  
Ere Cheops from his quarries clove the stone  
And piled his pyramid on Egypt's plain;  
And later, ere the God-projected fane  
Of Solomon had into grandeur grown;  
Before the glory of the Greek was known,  
Or Romulus the she-wolf's dugs did drain:—

We stood in youth where now in age we stand,  
Colossal types of life that closer climb  
To clasp the stars than any living thing.  
Ye cherish crumbling temples that were planned  
In Dian's day, yet deem it not a crime  
Our older glory in the dust to fling.



## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

NOT in cataclysmal chaos, earthquake, fire, or  
flood, or blast,  
Waits the world to hear the summons calling  
her to death at last.

Oft she hears a muttered menace, sees the  
ghastly lightnings gleam,  
And the slumbering volcano vomit forth its  
lethal stream;

Oft she sees the wind-whipped waters leaping  
to the sullen skies,  
And the foaming tidal terror in its deadly  
might arise;

But still deaf to all the dirges that have rolled  
above her dead,  
And the songs that stir the living, she has ever  
onward sped,

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

As when first, a vagrant vapor, thrown from  
off the glowing breast  
Of her mighty parent planet, up the shining  
path she pressed,

Lifeless, nebulous, and naked, save the vesture  
that was drawn  
'Round her like a misty mantle, as she speeded  
to the dawn.

Who can guess the force that flung her out  
upon the star-strewn deep  
Clasped her cloudy cincture 'round her,  
taught her how her course to keep

Through the vast uncharted regions, orbed  
her, shaped her, 'round her flung  
Icy bands and frozen fetters that for æons to  
her clung?

Long she drifted through the darkness, but at  
last the Word was heard,  
And the cold, insensate sleeper to the waken-  
ing message stirred;

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

Felt the quickening breath that melted frozen  
field and moor and main,  
Drank the draught of saving sunlight, lost the  
winter-woven chain;

Grew in grandeur and in beauty, soaring to  
the noonday height,  
Till the mighty Hand that hurled her out  
upon the cosmic night

Draws her back to death and darkness, shrouds  
her in her ice once more,  
Stripped of all her garnered glory, all her  
Science, Song, and Lore.

There shall be no eye to see it, Life shall long  
have left the earth,  
When she reels, a dying planet, to the breast  
that gave her birth.

All our knowledge is as nothing; clear-eyed  
Reason stands aghast,  
For she sees the light that led us through the  
dark and distant past

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

Lost within the larger lustre Science sheds  
upon Earth's doom,  
Is it better than the glow-worm that we fol-  
lowed in the gloom?

While Earth speeds to where unnumbered  
sister stars are frozen spheres,  
Faith, before her falling altars, lifts her fear-  
less face and hears

Every cherished creed derided, but still mum-  
bles to her beads,  
Dreaming that beyond the requiems deathless  
life to death succeeds.

Hope's pale star still smiles to soothe us, dis-  
tant, indistinct, and cold,  
As the primal moth beheld it, do we now its  
beams behold?

Are we nearer than the nascent life that slum-  
bered in the slime,  
When the protoplasmic moner scanned the  
steeps that it must climb?

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

Or the microcosmic atom, ere its fetters left  
it free?

Or the blind bathybius sleeping at the bottom  
of the sea?

Yea, the germ, primordial, potent, saw the  
goal that it must gain,  
Found a hovel in man's body, built a palace  
in his brain.

And the selfsame seeds that wakened with it  
in Earth's virgin womb  
Fill the fields with fragrant blossoms, or in  
poisoned petals bloom;

Make the wilderness grow vocal with the  
voice of bird and brute,  
Send the great Sequoia skyward, gnaw in  
cankers at its root;

Never swerving from the settled purpose of  
the primal plan,  
Save when planted in the passions and the  
burning brain of man;

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

There, oft glorious, often ghastly, oft de-  
graded, oft divine,  
Sometimes soaring to the stars, and sometimes  
wallowing with the swine;

Always out of tune with Nature; is the human  
brute the best,  
Fated to the thralling thirst that burns for-  
ever in his breast,

Which hath ever urged us onward o'er Life's  
sterile sands, till we,  
Rich in knowledge, rich in wisdom, panting  
forward, ever see

Silent and untrodden regions, over which the  
mirage beams,  
But its tempting trees and waters murmur  
only in our dreams?

They have murmured unto myriads and be-  
guiled them in the past,  
They will call through coming ages, long as  
life on earth shall last,

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

When she hurries through the spaces on to  
where the peril hides,

As some bark on her own bosom sails through  
tranquil tropic tides,

Freighted full with costly treasures, till some  
stealthy stream or breeze

Woos her from the summer waters into dark  
and winter seas,

Where the icy currents clasp her, and the  
frozen vapors turn

Into cerements of silver, shrouding her from  
stem to stern.

Galley slaves were ne'er chained closer than  
her captive crew, whose doom

Is to drift to death through darkness, fettered  
to their floating tomb;

Crouching in the cold and shrinking from  
their dreaded end they gaze

On some spectre sail that mocks them as it  
passes in the haze.

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

So the life that lingers latest on this planet  
still will yearn

For the peace the world denies it, yea, though  
it again return

To the lowest type that sheltered in its breast  
Hope's latent spark,  
And then fanned it to the fatuous flame that  
lures us through the dark.

All our philosophic pedants, all our sons of  
Science know

Not a whit more than that dullard dreamed  
unnumbered years ago,

As to where the spirit wanders when the body  
sinks in death,

For beyond the grave's black portals never  
man has breathed one breath.

We have probed the past and hunted in its  
deepest, darkest cells,

But the secret still eludes us, never by one  
whisper tells



## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

Where Life felt its first faint tremor, for it  
was not born of naught,  
Never seed spontaneous blossoms till the  
quickenning breath be brought.

As we know not the beginning, so we may not  
know the end,  
But as life from life first started, back, through  
death, to life 't will wend.

Now and then some guide arises who would  
turn us from our path  
With sweet promises that please us, or with  
threats of future wrath.

We have listened to His lessons, heard the  
Nazarene's behest,  
"Follow Me, my way-worn children, I alone  
can give ye rest."

We have wondered as we hearkened unto  
Buddha's pleading voice,  
If to find the peace men long for, they could  
make a wiser choice.

## BEYOND THE REQUIEMS

We have seen the swarthy Arab step athwart  
our path and say,  
"Ye shall drink the living waters, if my pre-  
cepts ye obey."

We have searched the stars above us for the  
secret, but no beam  
Lights our darkened path to guide us to the  
goal of which we dream.

Little hope or help is hidden in the garner  
of the past,  
All its poets, priests, and sages, all the wisdom  
which they massed,

All its fables, faiths, and fictions, all its tem-  
ples, triumphs, tomes  
Tell us nothing of the region where the flesh-  
freed spirit roams.

## THE MAN IS NOTHING, THE WORK IS ALL

THIS world is but a noisy show,  
A mighty, motley masquerade,  
Where countless actors come and go,  
A tragedy and gasconade,  
Where many puzzling parts are played;  
Till curtained with Death's dusty pall,  
And in Time's testing balance weighed,  
The man is nothing, the work is all.

Forward they press, both high and low,  
And rich and poor, and gay and staid;  
Some climb where Fame's fair mountains glow,  
While others grovel in the glade;  
But when at last the sexton's spade  
Hath built the bed to which they crawl,  
When requiems roll and prayers are prayed,  
The man is nothing, the work is all.



THE MAN IS NOTHING, THE WORK IS ALL

Though rivers red as crimson flow  
Beneath the shot-torn barricade;  
Though on the clay of fallen foe  
Thrones have been reared with reeking blade,  
Yet when some tyrant hath betrayed  
His trust, our freedom to enthrall,  
War's waking cry should be obeyed,  
The man is nothing, the work is all.

Fate's shuttle flashes to and fro,  
And many curious webs are made;  
Oft Fortune doth her smile bestow  
To light some dullard through the shade;  
While Genius, jilted by the jade,  
Hears in the gloom Fame's clarion call,  
"Toil on! toil on! be not afraid,—  
The man is nothing, the work is all."

Through scenes of sin and ways of woe  
Some reckless sons of Song have strayed.  
Villon and Burns, Verlaine and Poe,  
And Wilde, her latest renegade,

**THE MAN IS NOTHING, THE WORK IS ALL**

With others whom the Fates have flayed,  
Who to the dregs drained Sorrow's gall,  
Wear the fair leaves that never fade;  
The man is nothing, the work is all.

To some misleading guides we owe  
Lights that have made us retrograde;  
While others up Time's ramparts throw  
For us a shining escalade,  
By which we may at last invade  
Truth's glorious and eternal hall;  
Or fair, or foul, in Life's crusade,  
The man is nothing, the work is all.

**ENVOY**

Whene'er we glory or upbraid  
The good or bad, the great or small,  
This maxim may our judgment aid,  
The man is nothing, the work is all.

## HOVE-TO

BAFFLED, but bravely, like a stag at bay,  
She faced the driving gale and angry sea;  
Under short canvas and with helm a-lee,  
Hove-to, upon the starboard tack she lay  
And looked into the wind's wild eye that day.  
Over the great green rolling billows she  
Rode like a storm-bird, and did seem to be  
A mist-born phantom rising from the spray.

Her tightened weather-shrouds rang like a  
lyre,  
Struck by the furious Storm-king as he  
passed;  
Wild ocean wraiths wailed in the thundering  
choir,  
A thousand demons shrieked in every blast;  
Yet better thus to battle with the gale,  
Than drift o'er sleeping seas with listless sail.

## WHEN VIOLETS BLOOM

WHEN violets bloom, 't is when the year  
Wakes from her winter dream to hear  
    Spring's cradle-song crooned by the gale  
    O'er meadow, mountain, moor, and dale,  
That these pure purples first appear.

Then Summer's daughters come, who wear  
More gorgeous robes, but they are mere  
    Maids to the modest Queen we hail  
        When violets bloom.

Then hosts of fragrant followers rear  
Their sun-kissed crests of beauty ere  
    The frosts of Winter fall, but fail  
    To make these virgins of the vale  
Forgotten by the hearts they cheer  
        When violets bloom.

## THE UNKNOWN LOVE

As in the City of the Violet Crown  
An altar to the Unknown God was raised  
Midst shrines of beauty that a world  
amazed,  
And even now in crumbling grandeur frown;  
For well the fine Hellenic hand could gown  
The stone with glory; but while strangers  
praised  
The peerless piles, the Greek upon them  
gazed  
Unmoved by all their beauty and renown.

For every sense was sated, and he yearned  
For more than soulless marble could contain,  
Then did his vague idolatry disown;  
So I on Passion's altars long have burned  
The incense of my soul, but all in vain,—  
The love I dream of I have never known.



## THE ROSE

WHEN to my lips this rose I pressed,  
Life with new beauty seemed to glow.  
A love that slumbered in my breast,  
When to my lips this rose I pressed,  
Leaped back to life, and I confessed  
The pledge I gave thee long ago.  
When to my lips this rose I pressed,  
Life with new beauty seemed to glow.

When first our fervid troth was told,  
I gave it to thee with a vow.  
Shall I forget that night of old,  
When first our fervid troth was told,  
And when I swore that it should hold  
Me true to thee? It holds me now.  
When first our fervid troth was told,  
I gave it to thee with a vow.

## THE ROSE

And now it comes in after years,  
    Its scent and color gone with age,  
Wet with Faith's timid, trustful tears.  
And now it comes in after years,  
And cries aloud to Love that hears  
    And hastens to redeem the gage.  
And now it comes in after years,  
    Its scent and color gone with age.

And back to where I met thee first  
    This faded flower my memory bears;  
All doubts of thee it hath dispersed,  
And back to where I met thee first  
I speed with every sense athirst,  
    My soul the sacred summons hears,  
And back to where I met thee first  
    This faded flower my memory bears.

I see the love-light in thine eyes,  
    I listen to thy murmurs low,  
I drink the rapture of thy sighs;  
I see the love-light in thine eyes,

## THE ROSE

And oh! I see the tears that rise,  
And curse the fate that made them flow.  
I see the love-light in thine eyes,  
And listen to thy murmurs low.

The lips I loved may now be pale,  
But what is that, dear one, to me?  
Time's touch will make the fairest fail.  
The lips I loved may now be pale,  
But through the gloom I hear them wail,  
And haste across the years to thee.  
The lips I loved may now be pale,  
But what is that, dear one, to me?

## LET 'S KISS A KISS

LET 'S kiss a kiss and vow a vow  
And lightly laugh at far-off years;  
Ere yet beneath their weight we bow,  
Let 's kiss a kiss and vow a vow  
That age shall find us then as now,  
Linked by a love that never fears.  
Let 's kiss a kiss and vow a vow  
And lightly laugh at far-off years.

## EVOLUTION

MYSTICAL Dream of Creation!

Problem of Dark Evolution!

Tell us the world's early story,

Life's hidden secret unfold.

Vain is each wild speculation,

Groping in gloom for solution,

Enough that from darkness sprang glory,

Sunrise in crimson and gold.

Mounting the stream of the ages,

Up to its sources of mystery,

Threading its channels uncertain,

What after all have we won?

Blank were the world's early pages,

Buried in myth was its history,

Long after Earth's misty curtain

Glowed with the light of the sun.

## **EVOLUTION**

Still in the quarried tradition,  
Still in the ice-graven story,  
Still in the rock-written fable,  
Linger the throes of thy birth;  
Marking thy growth and transition,  
Back in the centuries hoary,  
Legends that teach and enable  
Thy children to know thee, O Earth!

Nebulous waif of obscurity,  
On through immensity stealing,  
Wandering child of the forces,  
Dropped from the matrix of night!  
Fashioning thyself to maturity,  
Sphering and fusing, annealing,  
Through the dark centuries' courses  
Drifting along to the light.

Chaos all order confounding,  
Yet ever silently speeding  
On with instinctive elusion,  
Steadily holding thy way;

## EVOLUTION

Darkness primeval abounding,  
Down through the æons unheeding,  
Ever mid murky confusion  
Blundering on to the day.

Thundered a mandate through heaven,  
"Let there be light!" and the vapors,  
Losing themselves in the ocean,  
Mingled again with the deep.  
Then followed morning and even,  
Night lit her pale distant tapers,  
Order was born of commotion,  
Earth was awakened from sleep.

Laboring in primal gestation,  
Life in its forms multifarious,  
Eager to meet the sun's kisses,  
Leaped in her womb with delight;  
Weary of long nidulation,  
Up from their wallows lutarious,  
Up from their darksome abysses  
Swarmed the strange brood of the night.

## EVOLUTION

Life in fantastic variety,  
Breeding and battling and dying,  
Struggling for very existence,  
Rending with fang and with nail;  
Death, never gorged with satiety,  
Over the massacre flying,  
Blind to the light in the distance,  
Deaf to the song in the gale.

Type against type for survival  
Through the long ages contending,  
All for supremacy striving,  
Man as the master they own;  
Brute of the brutes without rival,  
Up from the conflict ascending,  
Scheming, coercing, contriving,  
Building the steps to his throne.

Fatuous child of mortality,  
Swaddled in dark superstition,  
Groping thy way through obscurity,  
Stumbling, but stumbling to rise;



## EVOLUTION

Casting aside animality,  
Girding thyself with ambition,  
Fearlessly facing futurity,  
Scaling the steeps of the skies.

Race against race for dominion,  
Creed against creed for conviction,  
Throne against throne for subversion,  
Moving like puppets at play;  
Battling to force an opinion,  
Bleeding to follow a fiction,  
Dying, with instant reversion,  
To mingle again in the fray.

Many a crimson libation,  
Poured on barbarian altars,  
Freer and faster than water,  
Purples thy triumph with shame;  
Many a lurid oblation,  
Smoking to priest-prated psalters,  
Many a monster of slaughter  
Fiddling a kingdom to flame.

## EVOLUTION

Many a Moloch of cruelty,  
Many a Tophet infernal,  
Hope, after gory baptism,  
Flung to the funeral pyre;  
But with death-scorning credulity,  
Pluming its pinions eternal,  
Up from the murderous abysm  
Springing, like phœnix, from fire.

Dross of the brute disappearing,  
Lost in the burning purgation,  
Leaving the spirit less weighted,  
Less overburdened with clay;  
On to the light ever faring,  
Toiling in endless gradation,  
Lower to higher translated,  
Rising from darkness to day.

Many a sacred Thermopylæ  
Hurling defiance at slavery,  
Many a crucified martyr  
Dying for love of his kind.

## EVOLUTION

Tyranny, kingcraft, monopoly,  
Yielding to justice and bravery;  
Liberty's blood-blazoned charter  
Many a despot hath signed.

Many a conquest of Science,  
Shaming the warrior's sabre;  
Many a triumph of morals,  
Wisdom and Mercy and Love.  
Many a blade of defiance  
Forged to the ploughshare of Labor;  
Many a chaplet of laurels  
Wreathed with the olive above.

Height after height hast thou taken,  
Yet there are others remaining,  
Far in the pure empyrean  
Truth's shining battlements rise;  
Scale them with courage unshaken,  
Death and disaster disdaining,  
Storm them with jubilant pæan,  
Capture the gates of the skies.

## **EVOLUTION**

**Then shall all ills of mortality  
Unto thy wisdom surrender;  
Knowledge supreme and supernal,  
Leaving no summit to scale.  
Truth, in her white-robed reality,  
Opening her portals of splendor,  
Yielding her treasures eternal,  
Lifting Obscurity's veil.**

## REMEMBER THEE!

REMEMBER thee! The earliest morning beam  
That breaks my slumber brings thee back to me.  
Then through the long and lonely day I see  
Thy haunting beauty, and my soul doth dream  
Of blissful bygone raptures that redeem  
These tristful moods and keep me true to thee.  
Then, in the dark, I kneel and pray to be  
Blessed with thy passion, peerless and supreme.

Remember thee! Recall the midnight hours—  
The glorious gloom—in which we found the way,  
Thro' sensuous shades, to where our spirits met  
And breathed the fragrance of the purple flowers  
Which Passion gives his favored ones who stray  
Where we have strolled, then ask if I forget.

## THE TELLTALE MARKS

I DREAMT one night that I beheld thee dead;  
The Spoiler scarce had stolen thy breath away,  
When I bent over thy beloved clay,  
Speechless and tearless, with a nameless dread.  
For all thy pallid flesh, from heel to head,  
Passion's empurpled lip-prints did display;  
Unnumbered ghosts of bygone loves were they;  
Thy pale lips moved, and this is what they said:—

“Thou didst believe me true, but my false heart  
Was traitor to thee, and I did conceal  
My shame for many years; but now my art  
Availeth not; these telltale marks reveal,  
Each one, a guilty love—” “No more!” I cried,  
And woke to find thee sleeping at my side.

## THE DEVOTEE

THOU art no saint, but when I feel  
Thy blessed lips on mine,  
In adoration I could kneel  
And own thee half divine.  
A glory crowns thy golden hair,  
And lights thy loving eyes,  
Daughter of Earth! thou art as fair  
As those who tread the skies.

And when in my enraptured ears  
Thy murmuring accents flow,  
I think some spirit of the spheres  
Hath wandered here below.  
For angel lips alone could move  
In melody so sweet;  
Child of the Skies! behold thy love  
A suppliant at thy feet.



## THE DEVOTEE

Time's rude, unsparing hand will chase  
Thy loveliness away;  
But there 's a nobler, loftier grace  
That triumphs o'er decay;  
The heart that never once betrayed,  
That changing years have tried,  
When all thy other beauties fade,  
Shall draw me to thy side.



## THE TEMPTRESS

BELIKE thou art a temptress come from hell,  
The devil often dons a fair disguise;  
And yet I like the laughter in thine eyes,  
And for thy lips,—I love them wondrous well;  
They oft remind me of an ocean shell,  
With all its murmuring melody of sighs,  
Till I forget, when captive to their spell,  
The whispered music may be naught but lies.

Nay, nay! I do thee wrong; have I not felt  
The rosy rebels into sweetness melt,  
And seen thee swoon within my close caress?  
What matter if thy lips the word withhold,—  
In the mute music of thy pulses bold  
Thy love grows voluble and doth confess.

## VACILLATION

THE blessing and the curse alternate rise;  
One day I swear that thou art fairer far  
Than the chaste beauty of yon silver star  
That nightly hangs her lamp in western skies.  
The next I look on thee with other eyes,  
Thy beauty hath all vanished and thou art  
Foul as a leper, and thy traitor heart  
Seems but a sink of craftiness and lies.

One day, with many a passion-prompted vow,  
I braid Love's votive blossoms in thy hair;  
The next I tear the tribute from thy brow  
And crown thee with the curses of Despair.  
Swayed by the changing moon, tides ebb and flow,  
So to thy fickle heart these moods I owe.

## THE DEAD CALYPSO

WHERE be thy witcheries now, woman of wonderful beauty?

Priestess of pleasure and love, thy lotus hath withered at last.

Sweet was the soul-searing cult taught by thy liberal kisses,

Sweeter the chalice of love formed by thy sensuous mouth,

Ripe as the rapturing grape, rich as the rose in its redness,

But unto them that did drink fatal as waters of death.

Left unto thee are the dregs, bitter and biting as wormwood,

Freezing the blood in thy veins, leaving thee rigid and cold.

Strange that these lust-loving lips, prodigal once with such passion,

## THE DEAD CALYPSO.

Wreathe themselves into a smile chaste as a  
maiden's in sleep!

Ah, how they've changed since I first crushed  
their voluptuous vintage!

Shrunk is their soft silken skin, as when the  
tropical sun

Drinking the life of the grape, leaves it abandoned and shriveled,

Gibbeted on its own vine, swinging like felon  
forgot.

Mute is thy murmuring voice, silent its passionate pleading,

Which, like a song of the sea heard in a  
whispering shell,

Called me so softly to where, rising through  
ravishing roses,

Love's longed-for heaven appeared, fair as a  
rhapsodist's dream;

Misted with halos of gold, yet but a vanishing  
splendor

Miraged in exquisite grace over a desert of  
death.

## THE DEAD CALYPSO

But when the pulses of youth throb with their  
eager insistence,  
When the white snows of the heart melt with  
the breath of the spring,  
Then when the currents of life leap with  
ineffable joyaunce,  
Where is the hand that can point whither their  
waters will wend,  
Whether through vistas of peace, on to Love's  
infinite ocean,  
Or through dark devious ways, seeking the silt  
of the sewer.

Dead is the light in thine eyes, yet Recollection  
beholds them,  
Beaming with beauty like stars mirrored in  
slumbering seas;  
Where through the darkness they dream, till  
the warm kiss of the morning,  
Or the wild breath of the gale, drowns them  
in wave-woven foam.

## THE DEAD CALYPSO

Thus when the Roses of Love blushed with  
the Poppies of Passion,  
Crowning our cup of Desire, hid in the draught  
was a charm,  
Which when thy lips fell from mine, sighing  
and sated, would soothe thee  
Into a deep, dreamless swoon where the bright  
violet beams  
Faded away from thine eyes, which in the  
sensuous slumber  
Shone 'neath their uplifted lids white as the  
lilies of Death.  
Moistened with ecstasy's tears were the rapt  
azures when turning  
Into thy love-laden brain, there Passion's secret  
to find;  
Blind were their opaline orbs, on which I  
looked with amazement,  
Till my lips, clinging to thine, coaxed the lost  
irises back.  
Now under curtains of wax, lustreless crescents  
of whiteness,

## THE DEAD CALYPSO

Cold as the frost on the pane, hint of those  
rapturous hours;  
Where is their luminous gleam, which like the  
treacherous beacons  
Lighted by wreckers to lure mariners on to  
their doom,  
O'er Life's unpiloted sea shone with a bale and  
a beauty,  
Till the poor credulous bark dashed on the rock  
of thy heart?

Springtide of Life when the Soul, hearing  
Love's wakening whisper,  
Glows in the flame that Desire lights in the  
blood to betray!  
Summer that seethes in the veins, purpling  
Lust's grapes for the crushing,  
Which, in a wine-press of Pain, leave the black  
dregs of Despair!

This I was taught when thy heart, drunk with  
delirious passion,

## THE DEAD CALYPSO

Changed to a charnel where lurked ghosts of  
thy deep-buried past,  
Which from their sepulchre stole once in a still  
starless midnight,  
Bearing a chalice, rose-wreathed, drugged with  
the lees of dead loves.  
Draining the perilous draught, swift through  
my pulses the purple  
Rushed while our wet mingling mouths crushed  
the rich raptures that curse;  
Then learned I Lust's lurid lore, whispered by  
thee, whom I worshiped,  
Whom I had deemed half divine, shrined as  
a saint in my heart.  
Oh, how it leaped when thy lips, voicing thy  
vows meretricious,  
Sighed like a girl's whose pure love murmurs  
with virginal bliss!  
Ah, how it bled when they turned, babbling  
in sleep that betrayed them,  
Seeking mine own in the dark, breathing some  
lost lover's name!



## THE DEAD CALYPSO

Swiftly the meshes of silk spun into steel, but  
I lingered,  
Fondling the fetters I feared, fearing to fling  
them away;  
Lost to the lips I had loved, yet with the thirst  
of a drunkard  
Draining the draught that enslaved e'en while  
the spirit recoiled.  
Day after day, as the scales fell from mine eyes,  
I beheld thee  
Garbed in the glamour of Lust, rise from the  
ashes of Love.  
Night after night, though my fears, lulled by  
thy lips, fled like phantoms,  
Soon every sigh that I heard seemed but a hiss  
from the grass;  
Even thy sob of farewell stifled a laugh when  
I left thee  
Coming at last, dear, to lay Love's chrismal lips  
on thy brow.  
Long, long ago in the past, God's proud and  
white-pinioned angels

## THE DEAD CALYPSO

Found in the daughters of Earth all that their  
souls could desire;

Why should I wonder that thou, fairest and  
frailest of women,

Didst with thy sorceries snare the souls and the  
bodies of men?

Where are thy worshipers now, they who did  
pant to embrace thee?

Where is the homage they breathed deep in  
these death-deafened ears?

Where are the gems and the gold, offered with  
love, that could make thee

Faithless to him whose cold lips whisper of  
passionless peace?

## GIVE ME THY LIPS

GIVE me thy lips, and let me feel  
That they forgiveness grant  
For much that these poor rhymes reveal.  
Give me thy lips, and let me feel  
The raptures that once made me reel,  
That through these verses pant.  
Give me thy lips, and let me feel  
That they forgiveness grant.

## THE DREAM

ON thy white breast that mocks the snow  
Once in a dreaming hour I leaned;  
I felt thy placid pulses glow,  
As from thy modest mouth I gleaned  
The rosy raptures that eclipse  
The joys that waking wooers know,  
And then I laid my fervid lips  
On thy white breast that mocks the snow.

Oh, how thy heart responsive beat  
With new-born passion's blinding bliss  
That calmed the conscience that would cheat  
And chide me from that glowing kiss!  
O clinging limbs! O yielding breast!  
O lips unlessoned! yet replete  
With passion, yearning to be pressed;  
Oh, how thy heart responsive beat!

THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE  
THE KING!

WHEN Villon sang the melted snows,  
The white shroud of a buried year,  
Say, did the traitor winds disclose  
Their hiding-place, or tell him where  
Were laid the dead, the debonair  
Lost women whom he loved to sing?  
No, but they sighed, then answered clear,  
The King is dead, long live the King!

Why weep the love-surrendered Rose?  
Is faded beauty worth a tear?  
On yonder stem another grows,  
In fresher fragrance hanging there;  
While in the waking breeze we hear  
The love-song of the joyous Spring  
Shouting above old Winter's bier,  
The King is dead, long live the King!

**THE KING IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE KING!**

And thus the cycling measure goes;  
One day fond lips allegiance swear;  
The next the fickle wanton throws  
Her eyes on some new cavalier,  
Who for a season short may wear  
Her favors, in his turn to fling  
Them to the winds for one more fair;  
The King is dead, long live the King!

**ENVOY**

Prince, when you listen to the cheer  
Which through your crowded courts shall ring,  
Remember, thus they'll hail your heir,  
The King is dead, long live the King!

## THE CRIMSONED GIFT

IF I thy naked spirit could behold,  
As oft thy classic comeliness I've seen,  
Garbed only in its beauty, and I ween  
That Fate to few e'er gave a fairer mould,  
I wonder what the vision would unfold!  
Thy flesh, tho' fair, enshrines a soul whose sheen  
Is radiant too, and though by Love controlled,  
Love is divine if it no malice mean.

Or if thy heart within my hand were laid,  
Brought bleeding to me from thy white wan  
breast,  
And every ruddy drop were voluble  
To answer me; with faith, all unafraid,  
I'd kiss the crimsoned gift, though it confessed  
That which in life it lacked the strength to tell.

## ADIEU D'AMOUR

FAITHFUL in every fibre of thy heart,  
And all as beautiful as thou art true,  
Yet if it be thy wish that we should part  
Let's unkiss all our vows and say Adieu.

The love that glowed so warmly in thy breast  
Is dying slowly,—shall we let it die?—  
Yea, if the flickering flame brings thee unrest,  
My tears shall drown it as I weep Good-by.

Good-by? Ah, no! We cannot break the chain;  
The fetters fused in Passion's crucible  
Are hard to sever; so we must remain  
Bound to each other, though we sigh Farewell.



## ENGLAMOURED

THERE'S a love that every other love excelleth,  
And its glamour doth outglow the noonday  
sun;

'Tis the faith that with suspicion never  
dwelleth,—

'Tis the rapture that is reckless to outrun  
The fond hope that every compassed joy sur-  
passes,

That but lives to realize thy blest embrace;  
They may bid me look on thee through Doubt's  
dark glasses,

But I only see the beauty of thy face.

## HAPPY DAYS

THERE is no music like the merry clink  
Of glasses when some fair one's health we drink;  
There is no toast more fitting than the phrase  
My mistress murmurs: it is, "Happy Days!"

Wet with the wine, her red lips part to show  
Pearls that are whiter than the winter snow;  
The amber beads that glitter in the glass  
Blush crimson as her rose-leaf lips they pass.

The mirth, the music, and the wit and wine  
With whispered word and kindling kiss combine  
To fan within my heart the flame that lights  
The way from happy days to heavenly nights.

O Heavenly Nights! An Arctic winter were  
Too short to linger by the side of her,  
Whose lips would make it seem a night in June,  
On whose brief bliss the dawn would break too  
soon.

## LUST'S TIGER TEETH

BUT till thy heart is mine and mine is thine,  
All passion will be pale 'twixt thee and me.  
Compare it now with what it then would be,  
That were to liken water unto wine.  
If thou wert fair as she before whose shrine  
A world doth kneel—the foam-born deity—  
And I a god, did not our souls combine,  
Our passion-prompted vows were perjury.

The brute within the blood may ramp and rave,  
Or fawn and fondle, till the tender tone  
Of Love's soft sigh is counterfeited well;  
But 't is the flesh that for the flesh doth crave,  
Lust's tiger teeth that tear us to the bone,  
To leave us at the last in living hell.

## WHAT GHOSTS ARE THESE?

How thy blood-kindling kisses answer mine  
When locked in thy voluptuous limbs I lie!  
How heart to heart and pulse to pulse reply  
And bring the blushes that incarnadine  
Thy velvet cheeks! How those wet lips of thine  
Murmur to me the soft surrendering sigh,  
That means the moment of our bliss is nigh,  
In which the currents of our love combine!

Delirious dream! What ghosts are these that stalk  
Into the breathless after-pause to freeze  
The blood that burned and clamored for  
thy charms?  
Dark demons they, who come thy vows to mock,  
And wake imagination till it sees  
Thy beauty panting in another's arms.

## THE SWOON

I HAVE swooned near to death in those white  
arms of thine,

Till the trance that enthralled me hath grown  
To a dream where the glories of heaven were  
mine,

Then have waked on thy bosom to own  
That the seraphs who stroll through the regions  
above

Never know the rare bliss that I feel  
When I wander with thee where the labyrinths  
of Love

Their most exquisite raptures reveal.

I have looked on the stars till my listening ears  
Have been filled with the strains of the blest;

But my soul a more eloquent harmony hears

In the dreams that I dream on thy breast;

'Tis the low blissful beat of a heart that replies

With a passionate love unto mine;

'Tis the melody heard in thy murmuring sighs

When my being is blending with thine.

## THE SWOON

I have walked where the demons of Sorrow and  
Pain

Mock the memories of happier days;

I have drunk the dark dregs of Despair that  
remain

In the cup of the Love that betrays;

But thy lips, like the breath of a spring that  
has fled,

In my heart have awakened once more

All the glorious dreams of the days that are dead,

And their peace and their passion restore.

## VICTOR LOVE

TENDER, melting lips, distilling  
Love's rich vintage, sweet and rare;  
Trusting, pleading eyes, now filling  
With the bright reproachful tear,  
A sob so sweet, so softly low,  
A breath of heaven, a knell of woe.

Ah, the murmuring and the sighing,  
And the tumult in each breast!  
Heart to heart is now replying,  
Victor Love is crowned and blest;  
The tyrant sits in Reason's throne,  
And claims the kingdom for his own.

How he scatters all his treasures  
On his subjects, you and me,  
Golden showers of Passion's pleasures;  
Godlike mortals now are we!  
What care we for the sword of flame  
That bars the gate through which we came!

## VICTOR LOVE

What, beloved, art thou sobbing,  
Weeping that there's no return?  
How thy timid heart is throbbing!  
How thy cheeks with crimson burn!  
My kiss shall teach thee to forget,  
And love shall triumph o'er regret.



## WITH CAP AND BELLS

( WITH cap and bells, day after day,  
The jester's jolly part I play.  
Yes, "Motley is the only wear,"  
The only fabric that will bear  
Time's touch or turn Fate's frown away.

The wisest in the world are they,  
Earth's laughter-loving ones, who stray  
Along through life from year to year,  
With cap and bells.

A laugh our sorrow can allay,  
A sigh our merriment can slay;  
Give me the jest that's not a jeer,  
Give me the smile that's not a sneer,  
And you may crown me till I'm gray  
With cap and bells.



## O SINGER OF THE SEVEN SEAS!

*(To Rudyard Kipling)*

WHEN Triton's thrilling trumpet tone  
Sang first across the restless blue,  
From East to West, from zone to zone,  
Such witchery o'er the waves he threw,  
That Orpheus from his lute ne'er drew  
Such music for the rocks and trees,  
As that which o'er the billows flew,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

That sounding shell was shoreward thrown  
To thee by Amphitrite, who  
Now hears across her surges blown  
The wave-worn ballads that she knew  
Long, long ago; but there were few  
She loved to listen to like these  
Which from thy lips come clear and true,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

O SINGER OF THE SEVEN SEAS!

These broad blue tides we call our own,  
Methinks should have another hue,  
For in their deadly deeps is sown  
The flesh of many a fearless crew.  
Though for our Admiralty we strew  
To shore and shark the fullest fees,  
Still, "Give us more!" the surges sue,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

Not for the "Meteor Flag" alone  
Dost thou all other song eschew;  
We hear the Liner's engines groan,  
We feel the Freighter's "bucking screw";  
The Derelict drifts past our view,  
Scoffed by the surge, mocked by the breeze,  
Storm-driven, battered and perdu,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

Yet not alone old Ocean's moan  
Thy many measures doth imbue;  
To sing the soldier thou art prone,  
Thy ringing rhymes are a tattoo;

O SINGER OF THE SEVEN SEAS!

When Tommy Atkins walks askew,  
Or stands at anything but ease,  
He gets from thee the proper cue,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

Familiar forms again are shown,  
Nor would we from this verse taboo  
The "Rag and Hank of Hair and Bone,"  
We knew her well, the shallow shrew,  
And wonder how we came to woo  
And swear our love on bended knees,  
But long ago we said adieu,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

ENVOY

This somewhat sorry ambigu  
Smacks of the ballade's strict decrees;  
Our Muse dislikes the stern gooroo,  
O Singer of the Seven Seas!

## THE TEARFUL TROTH

It is a tale that has been often told,  
The story of a love that leaps to life  
And blooms in beauty, though a dark distrust  
Lurks ever near to menace and destroy.

It is the legend of the love that lives  
Through doubting days and through the har-  
rowing hours  
Of long and lonely nights; the love that dreams  
Of unforgettable and feverish things  
That burn within the blood and bring again  
The memory of the murmured midnight vow,  
When mutual melting lips were wont to tell  
The thrilling and—perhaps—the tearful troth.

Ah, fond and fair, low-voiced and lovely-limbed,  
Made of the classic clay that wakens men  
To valorous deeds, or drugs them with desire,  
Until they dream that lust and love are one—

### THE TEARFUL TROTH

From dawn to dark I see thy faultless face,  
And through the night it haunts me, till I feel  
That I could gladly give my life to live  
One brief but blissful hour on thy white breast.

The memories of the past cannot outweigh  
My world of present woe; I feel as one  
Who, worn and wearied in a wilderness,  
Wherein no fountain springs or food is found,  
Dreams of the glorious days that once were his,—  
The feast, the flagon, and the flowers and fruit,  
And hears again the mocking melody  
Of one familiar, unforgotten voice.

So in my dreams I sometimes feel the lips  
That kissed away my cares and chained my soul  
Within a charm that Time can never break,  
Then wake to wonder if I ever steal  
Into thy thoughts as thou dost into mine.

## I LOVE THEE STILL

I LOVE thee still; there's not a day  
That drags its dreary length away,  
From dark December unto June,  
Or winter night, or summer noon,  
But unto thee my fancies stray.

Poor heralds of my heart are they  
Who would to thee my love convey  
And woo thee with the wearying tune,  
I love thee still.

Ah, but to feel thy pulses play,  
And once again my head to lay  
On thy white breast! For such a boon,  
Though thou art fickle as the moon,  
My lips would cling to thee and say  
I love thee still.

## WAIFS

LOVE'S kindest kiss oft to a flame hath fanned  
A latent passion and consumed the best.

One morn a girl's pure lips to mine were pressed,  
And Ruin's dreaded gulf was rainbow-spanned,  
O'er which we passed into a pleasant land.

But when that night she wept upon my breast,  
She seemed a love-lost angel on the strand  
Of some strange star, wing-wearied and unblest.

Not all unhappy, still we drift along,  
Down the wild waters of Love's waif-strewn sea;  
And closer do we cling when others tell  
Of that dark whirlpool in whose eddies strong,  
Frail passion-freighted lovers, such as we,  
Are dragged by undercurrents down to hell.



## TO A TREE

OFT hast thou bent before the gale,  
And heard the tempests 'round thee roar;  
Oft hast thou found their fury fail,  
As down on thee the demons bore;  
They wounded thee in many a war,  
But still thou standest unsubdued,  
To battle with them as before,  
Mute type of Patient Fortitude.

Though vainly they thy strength assail,  
Of scars they gave thee many a score;  
Though thou art armored with the mail  
That fiercer onslaughts may ignore;  
Still many a limb from thee they tore  
And on the plain their plunder strewed,  
Trophies that Time cannot restore,  
Mute type of Patient Fortitude.

### TO A TREE

The pleasant pathways of the dale  
Let sighing Strephon still explore;  
Yea, he may have the flowery vale  
And fair-faced Phyllis there adore.  
Thy silent shade to me means more.  
There oft, in melancholy mood,  
I stroll to learn thy saving lore,  
Mute type of Patient Fortitude.

### ENVOY

To calm blue skies I see thee soar,  
Forgetful of the Borean brood  
Harked on by thunder-throated Thor,  
Mute type of Patient Fortitude.

**GIVE A BEGGAR A HORSE AND  
HE'LL GALLOP TO HELL**

**GIVE** a pauper a purse that is bursting with gold,  
And the meats and the music, the women and  
wine

**You** will soon in a profligate pageant behold,  
For he cannot to luxury's limits confine  
The ambition that burns in his blood to out-  
shine

**Even** lavish Lucullus, whom none could excel;  
There is truth in the phrase, there is lore in  
the line,—

**Give** a beggar a horse and he'll gallop to hell.

**He** may rot in his rags, he may freeze in the cold,  
He may snore in the sewer, or crib with the kine,  
He may crunch the hard crust that is charity-  
doled,

He may share, like the prodigal, husks with  
the swine,

All of poverty's curses may in him combine,  
Till the dogs that licked Lazarus 'gainst him rebel,  
But I say it again, tho' the saying's not mine,  
**Give** a beggar a horse and he'll gallop to hell.

## GIVE A BEGGAR A HORSE

Ah, what pictures the portals of Pluto unfold!

What diversions the devil delights to design,  
When the clattering hoofs of the courser controlled

By the pauper are heard on the easy incline!

Then Beelzebub doesn't take long to divine  
Who is riding so hard, for he knows the pace well,

And awaits with a welcome most warm and  
condign;

Give a beggar a horse and he'll gallop to hell.

## ENVOY

You must pardon me, Prince, if this envoy  
enshrine

The sad lady whom Pluto took with him to  
dwell;

But to fry in the flame near the fair Proserpine,  
Give a beggar a horse and he'll gallop to hell.

## THE CRUST OF CONTENT.

HE who for some great aim hath never sought  
More than Life's stern demands to satisfy  
Climbs closer to the gods, whose needs are naught,  
Than he whose sordid soul doth multiply  
The millions which he vainly dreams will buy  
The calm content that gold hath never bought;  
Cræsus to Solon this confessed when brought,  
Bankrupt and conquered, to the stake to die.

The crust that balks the wolf may sometimes be  
Sweet as the manna in the wilderness;  
'T is when the soul forgets the flesh to stray  
Where, in the realm of some harmonious dream,  
It listens to the whispered words that bless,  
And learns the charm that chides the world  
away.

## FROM CRYPT AND CHOIR

FROM crypt and choir these rhymes are penned,  
For grief and gladness in them blend;

There is a cell beneath Song's fane,  
Where many a prisoner of pain  
Hath found the Muse his closest friend.

Above his couch she comes to bend,  
She teaches him to make and mend

The psalm he sues her to obtain  
From Crypt and Choir.

She makes the organ's thunder rend  
His raftered roof; the tones descend

And flood the dungeon with their strain;  
But unto her he turns to gain  
The calmer chords she loves to lend  
From Crypt and Choir.

## **WE MUST SIT SILENT WHEN THE DEVIL DRIVES**

**OF all the sayings and the saws we hear,  
The precepts and the proverbs, new or old,  
While many fall like folly on the ear,  
A few are weighted well with Wisdom's gold,  
And oft some philosophic treasure hold;  
Their little homilies guide many lives;  
When over smooth or rocky roadways rolled,  
We must sit silent when the devil drives.**

**When through the gloom the lights of home  
appear,  
To welcome us across the wind-swept wold;  
When 'round the blazing hearth we gather near,  
Safe-shielded from the tempest and the cold;  
Then, while some song is sung or story told,  
Fate, from the freezing world without, arrives  
And like a wolf glares on the sheltered fold;  
We must sit silent when the devil drives.**

**WE MUST SIT SILENT WHEN THE DEVIL DRIVES**

The future may be faced without a fear;  
If through the past we have not blindly  
strolled,  
It often lends a light to lead us where,  
Havened in peace, our hearts may be con-  
soled;  
Though Destiny by Fate is oft controlled,  
Yet when the heart upholds the hand that strives,  
Fortune and Fame o'er Failure may be  
scrolled,  
Though we sit silent when the devil drives.

**ENVOY**

Prince, many a man for years has been cajoled  
And buffeted by Fate, yet still survives;  
But till we slumber softly in the mould,  
We must sit silent when the devil drives.



## **JOB**

**MAJESTIC Mourner! When thy spirit moaned  
Itself to music on thy matchless page,  
When thy great sorrowing soul in anguish  
groaned,  
And when Fate flung to thee her galling gage,  
Oh, what a soul-sustaining heritage  
Was hidden in the fortitude that owned  
How vain and weak it were a war to wage  
With Him, the Lord, who sits in heaven  
enthroned.**

**Thy flesh was fed to foulness, Sorrow clad  
Thy soul with sackcloth, and thy forehead  
frowned  
With the black ashes of a heart consumed.  
But through it all, O Man of Uz, thy sad  
But sure philosophy thy trials crowned  
With perfect peace that out of patience  
bloomed.**

## THE HIDDEN HAND

THE hidden hand that strikes the mystic chords  
Which wake Love's rapturous and responsive thrill  
In kindred hearts, oft sweeps the sobbing strings  
Of Sorrow, till soul whispers unto soul  
The symphony that chides our tears away  
And turns Grief's midnight to a golden dawn.

## LOVE ME ONCE MORE

LOVE me once more. Ah, what have I to do  
With love, or what has love to do with me?  
And yet thy face by day and night I see,  
And with this prayer my soul doth thine pursue,  
Love me once more.

Love me once more, and it will teach the pen,  
That pleads so feebly to thee on this page,  
To tell lorn lovers, in some after age,  
That love, though dead, may leap to life again.

Love me once more; for as the hart doth pant  
To drink the water-brooks, I thirst for thee;  
Here, in the waste of life, I bend the knee  
And murmur like a famished mendicant,  
Love me once more.

LOVE ME ONCE MORE

Love me once more; and these poor rhymes I  
write

In thrilling trumpet tones shall sound thy  
name,

Till it shall echo where the Peaks of Fame  
Are bathed forever in ambrosial light.

Love me once more. Dost thou no longer heed  
That which had once been life's supremest  
prize?

And wilt thou now the proffered gift despise  
And turn away to mock me as I plead

Love me once more?

## THE PROMISED PEACE

It is the season when we turn again  
The pages of the past and pause to read  
Of One who gave unto the sons of men,  
Long years ago, the best and purest creed  
That ever proved its word in worth and deed;  
And though the tidings to the shepherds told  
Are unfulfilled, again we hear and heed  
The hymn the hosts of heaven sang of old,  
What time from star to star their hallelujahs rolled.

Now tho' we look with reverence on the past,  
And with fond faith its sacred story tell,  
Yet have the mists of Mammon o'er us cast  
The bane of unbelief, until we dwell  
Within the dark indifference of a spell  
Which Christ himself should come again to  
break;

## THE PROMISED PEACE

That bard were base as he whose cold kiss  
fell

Upon the Saviour's cheek, did he forsake  
The truth for fictioned phrase, or with false fingers  
take

From out the treasured past one grain of gold  
To gild with flattering pen a present pride;  
And for the future,—no man may behold  
And chart the crafty currents of that tide  
Down which it is our destiny to glide  
To where, across Time's trackless waters, roll  
The black and baffling mists of Death that  
hide

The unknown bourne, which to man's dream-  
ing soul  
Shines ever through the gloom, a hope-created  
goal.

The promised peace to earth has never come,  
And never will, as long as man shall hear  
The blaring bugle and the muttering drum  
Call him from kith and country on to where

## THE PROMISED PEACE

The hosts of Greed and Glory skyward rear  
Their crimson-colored banners to his gaze;  
The while the lusts of loot and empire sear  
His soul to selfish ends and sordid ways  
That mock the Star of Peace that did o'er Beth-  
lehem blaze.

Or worse than War's shrill clarion that wakes  
The sleeping thunder for some foreign foe,  
Is the soul-slaying thirst for gold that slakes  
Its craving where far better blood doth flow.

No Roman triumph in the past could show  
Captives chained closer to the chariot wheel,  
Than Mammon's modern conquerors, who  
know

No creed but gold, whose hearts can never feel  
The peace that passeth all their vaunted vaults  
reveal.

The flesh is more than raiment, and the life  
Is more than meat; yet we the truth disdain,  
And struggle blindly in a ceaseless strife,  
For what, when won, to ashes oft doth wane.

## THE PROMISED PEACE

We labor on with hand and heart and brain,  
But at the best we build upon the sand;  
The peace we long for ever doth remain  
Beyond the aching heart and outstretched hand,  
And seems a myth that man may never understand.

Beneath the burden of the primal curse  
We toil and sweat, but could more bravely  
bend  
And bear the galling yoke, yea, were it worse,  
If we but knew what waits us in the end;  
Or if we could back through the ages wend  
And hear Pan's reeds, Apollo's peerless lyre,  
See Cytherea from the foam ascend,  
And Hera's eyes blaze with a jealous ire;  
Ah, glorious golden days, what more could man  
desire?

The gods and myths of Greece have never  
flown  
From field and mountain and from grove  
and stream;



## THE PROMISED PEACE

They ever live, but we ourselves have grown  
Blind to the beauty of the splendid dream  
That thrall'd man's senses ere the searching  
beam.

Of Science shone with rapture-wrecking ray,  
Before the din of dynamo and steam  
Moaned Fancy's dirge and drove us forth to  
stray

Far from the pictured night into the dreamless day.

Now, though the fountain of our faith be dry,  
And in Life's waste no cooling stream ap-  
pears,

Hark! to the chorus rolling through the sky!  
It calls across the desert of the years  
And chides our pagan dreams and skeptic  
sneers.

For from the lesson of His love we learn  
The faith that falters not, the hope that  
cheers

Life's darkest hours, and through Him we  
may turn

Into the path that leads to that for which we yearn.

## TEARS

COULD I but crystallize these midnight tears  
And gather from their beaded bitterness  
A rosary for burning lips to press,  
Some pain-born token of these joyless years  
To teach the faith that saves, the hope that cheers,  
Then would I bid these fountains of distress  
Flow fast and free, if their sad floods could bless,  
Or murmur peace in some poor sufferer's ears.

Have I not known, O God!—have I not felt  
The benediction of another's verse  
Steal o'er me in the dark and lonely hour?  
Hath it not made my stubborn heart to melt,  
And turned to prayer the deep rebellious curse,  
And soothed my soul to rest with saving  
power?

## JUBILATE DEO

*(A. D. 1897)*

RIGHTEOUS Ruler, Royal Lady, throned in  
majesty and splendor,  
Thou, before whose matchless prestige all the  
past and present pale,  
Hear the world-encircling chorus which thy  
many millions render,  
Hear our mighty Jubilate, Sovereign-Queen  
and Empress, Hail!

While thy white-walled island shaketh with the  
message that is pouring  
From thy thunder-throated warders as they  
tell it to the deep;  
While the heaven-storming anthem now above  
the clouds is soaring,  
While the bounding heart of Britain doth  
with exultation leap,

## JUBILATE DEO

All along the seas the echo rolleth till Earth's  
    corners listen,  
Mighty marts and commerce-crowded ports  
    and rivers hear it swell;  
Lonely islands of the ocean, set in tropic tides  
    that glisten  
Into gladness, speed it onward, and the tale of  
    triumph tell.

Where the dawn of new dominion into splendid  
    noon is glowing,  
And the bright prophetic legend over Afric  
    skies is scrolled;  
Where thy sons the seeds of empire with ambi-  
    tious hands are sowing,  
There they think of thee and England, and  
    their song is skyward rolled.

Hark! while India's dusky myriads in their  
    many tongues proclaim thee;  
Mighty Empress of the East, three hundred  
    millions to thee call;

## JUBILATE DEO

There from Scinde to far Sadiya, now again we  
hear them name thee,  
Now again their mingling voices ring from  
Gilgit down to Galle.

Where in unfamiliar beauty Night's bright  
lamps are hung in heaven,  
While the starry crux is dying in the dawn of  
Austral skies,  
There the cannonading chorus flashes forth from  
lips of levin,  
And o'er sunny seas of sapphire on from isle  
to island flies.

Drowned to-day the mighty music of Niagara's  
falling river,  
Lost in pure Pacific pæans mingling with  
Atlantic's roar;  
Mountain, field, and lake are listening, into life  
the forests quiver,  
For they hear Vancouver calling unto lonely  
Labrador.

## JUBILATE DEO

Many a bivouac and barrack hear the reveille  
    rejoicing,  
    Many a citadel and fortress frowning over  
    foreign foam,  
Know the music of that bugle, and with tongues  
    of thunder voicing  
    Forth a great *Io Triumphe*, roll an answer-  
    ing message home.

Where the sheltering flag of England over land  
    and sea is streaming,  
    Where beneath a foreign banner British hearts  
    beat quick with pride,  
Where across the trackless waters England's  
    ships are swiftly steaming,  
    Where her barks with tempests battle, or at  
    anchor safely ride,

*There* thy liegemen now salute thee, for wher-  
    ever they may wander,  
    'Neath that flag is always England, but to-day  
    it is a shrine

## JUBILATE DEO

Where they kneel and on her thousand years of  
matchless glory ponder,  
Rising never to forget the brightest of them  
all are thine.

Where the home and hearth are sacred, yea,  
wherever women glory  
In the virtue that men value, where in every  
land they dwell  
For long years they've learnt to love and linger  
o'er thy stainless story,  
And a world of women's voices of another  
empire tell.

Golden mists of sixty summers melt and we  
again behold thee,  
Maiden-monarch, sceptred, symbolled, throned  
and crowned as England's Queen;  
There the promise of the present with its glory  
aureoled thee,  
While the ancient Abbey's arches never bent  
o'er grander scene.

## JUBILATE DEO

Then we see thee wife and mother, tranquil days  
of joy whose fleetness  
Grandeur, glory, power, and prestige could  
not for a moment stay;  
Days that dawned in peace and compassed every  
rare domestic sweetness,  
Till a life-enshrouding shadow fell across thy  
cloudless way.

From thy lips the lurking Spoiler dashed the cup  
of all thy gladness,—  
O ye Mountains of Gilboa! tears were then  
your dews and rain;  
Then from Dan to Beersheba all the land was  
filled with sadness,  
For our grief with thine was mingled when  
thy lofty mate was slain.

Ah, we miss thy minstrel Merlin, who with swift  
unfaltering fingers  
Taught the sounding Harp of England  
Honor's hymn and Sorrow's tale;



## JUBILATE DEO

Over many a song immortal, sung to thee, how  
Memory lingers,  
Till we almost hear his voice and see the guid-  
ing Gleam and Grail!

Nay, the Gleam is ever with us; thou for sixty  
years hast worn it,  
'T is the guiding light of England, Glory's  
star and Honor's ray;  
On thy forehead now it resteth, Truth and  
Righteousness adorn it,  
And it still shall lead us onward, as it lights  
our path to-day.

Now tho' Court and Camp and Cloister, Art  
and Song around thee cluster,  
Till the glory that enfolds thee seemeth more  
of heaven than earth,  
Yet it cannot for one moment blind us to the  
brighter lustre  
Of the the faith that never faltered, of the  
woman's splendid worth.

## JUBILATE DEO

Though with triumph and with pageant and  
with pæan we extol thee,  
As we lift thee and enthrone thee on the height  
of England's fame,  
Yet thy three-times-twenty years of blameless  
womanhood enroll thee  
With a halo that outshineth all thy gemmed  
tiara's flame.

Now unto the King of Kings, the Lord of Hosts,  
the God of Nations,  
On whose Truth for strength and wisdom  
thou with fearless faith dost lean,  
While the prayer and psalm are mingling with  
an Empire's acclamations,  
Unto Him we do commend thee, Sovereign  
Lady, Empress, Queen!

## WEARY

NOT as a means of grace  
And hope of glory,—No.  
But could I see Thy face  
And hear the blessing flow,  
As when Thy living lips the promise poured,  
Then would I kneel and wait for mercy, Lord.

Ye weary, come to me  
And I will give ye rest.  
Have I not bent the knee  
And all my soul confessed?  
Art thou a myth, O God, or am I blind,  
Groping in gloom for peace I cannot find.

Oh, shed one beam of light,  
And when my flesh is wrung  
Through agony's long night,  
When all my life is hung

## **WEARY**

**On Retrospection's cross, and when the spear  
Of Conscience strikes my soul, then be Thou near.**

**Whisper one word of hope,  
That my faint heart may know  
How with these fears to cope,  
And respite gain from woe;  
Bind up my wounds and breathe the healing balm  
Of one kind word, to comfort and to calm.**

**Not for a heaven unearned,  
Nor to escape a hell,  
My lips have often burned  
To drink of Mercy's well;  
Yearning in that sweet flood themselves to steep,  
And drift away from life in dreamless sleep.**

## TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

SUPREME Unknown, whom yet we trace  
But dimly through a darkened glass,  
When shall the mists that hide Thee pass,  
And we behold thee face to face?

For countless ages we have trod  
The lower trails that lead to Thee,  
Now on the distant heights we see  
The banners of the hosts of God.

A thousand gods have we confessed,  
And warped our worship age by age,  
Creed blotting creed from off the page,  
An ever-changing palimpsest.

Long through the gloom Thy skies we scanned;  
We cried to Thee, but Thou wert dumb;  
Yet Faith oft heard a whispered "Come,"  
And Fancy felt a guiding hand.

## TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Confirming our audacious guess,  
Thy lightnings clove the clouds and seemed  
To write amen to all we dreamed,  
Thy crashing thunders answered "Yes."

Altars and fanes to Thee we raised,  
Built on one vague but constant hope  
That taught us through the gloom to grope,  
While on the silent stars we gazed.

For Thee we searched the skies, then turned  
The glass upon the atom, till  
We saw the life within it thrill  
To clasp the mightiest star that burned.

Life yearning unto life, the spark  
Within the seed that bursts the sod  
Claims kindred with the unknown God,  
But never leaps the bridgeless dark.

Hope crying in the gloom, a child  
Amid strange lights and shadows lost,  
'Twixt doubt and fear perplexed and tossed,  
By any whispered word beguiled.

## TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Unfaltering faith may seek to tear  
And sweep the baffling veil aside;  
We know not if the dead deride  
Her efforts, but the living hear

Death laughing ever at her creed,  
Blighting each promise ere it bloom,  
Till all the past seems but a tomb,  
And every hope a broken reed.

A tomb! a broken reed! Ah no!  
We die, but dying leave behind  
That which may teach us yet to find  
Where Life's immortal waters flow.

A thousand ages yet unborn,  
Pregnant with promises that cast  
Their beams before, may bring at last  
The birth-blaze of the coming morn.

Within the growing light we fade  
With all the things of yesterday  
That swift-paced Progress flings away,  
Or Science scoffs into the shade.

## TO THE UNKNOWN GOD

Or as the scattered fragments fly  
    Beneath the Builder's hand, so we  
    Fall from the fabric that shall be  
A temple lifted to the sky.

Or is it Babel that we build  
    Age after age upon our dead?  
    And is our faith a fiction fed  
On dreams as vain as those that filled

The sons of Noah when they toiled  
    And piled the tower on Shinar's plain?  
    Oh! is the hope we cherish vain,  
And at the last shall we be foiled?

Nay, when far future years have passed,  
    Our lives shall not have been for naught,  
    For out of bleak oblivion brought,  
We shall behold Thy face at last.



## THE CROSS - CROWNED CAIRN

A WHISPERED prayer, a stone with reverent hand  
Laid near a cross that on a cairn doth stand,  
This and no more; no fragrant buds to wreath  
A garland for the silent dead beneath;  
No requiem rolling on the desert air  
To guide us to the lonely sleeper there;  
No rudely written legend to proclaim  
His birth, his death, his country, age or name.

Yet never vault, from dark Machpelah's cave,  
Where Israel's primal patriarch found a grave;  
Nor yet the dome that Artemisia raised  
O'er Caria's king, at which a world amazed  
In wonder stood; nor Ghizeh's gloomy pile,  
Housing the haughtiest Pharaoh by the Nile,  
Nor sacred shrine, nor quiet cloistered fane,  
Whose gloomy crypts Earth's proudest dust  
contain,  
E'er sent a softer slumber than these stones  
Which shelter from the sun a wanderer's bones.



## THE CROSS-CROWNED CAIRN

The prayers we pray, our dirges of distress,  
'Neath carven arch, or in the wilderness,  
What are they to the dead? Oh, who can say  
Where the dread Spoiler pauses, if the clay  
Alone surrenders to his blighting breath,  
Or, whether down the sombre stream of Death,  
The spirit, drifting into darkness, dies  
As did this flesh beneath these scorching skies?

It is not so; the Symbol that doth keep  
Its lonely vigil on yon stony heap  
Is eloquent, and tells of Him who first  
Through Death's unbroken barriers did burst.  
Of Him on whom a world has learnt to lean,  
And from the darkest hours of grief to glean  
The Hope that helps when other comforts fail,  
The Faith that falters not before the veil,  
The Love that prays in every Christian land,  
When in the presence of the dead we stand,  
That though the dreamless dust may never wake,  
The soul may somewhere see the morning break.

## CONSOLATION

A SOB of sorrow sounding through the strings  
As Recollection ponders on the past;  
Is this the only solace Memory brings  
To soothe a soul that shivers in the blast?  
How soon the feast was followed by the fast!  
How quick the fruits and flowers turned to dust!  
How swift the waters sped on which I cast  
The bread of life, that cometh back a crust!

A crust? Ah, no! Though barren is the shore  
Of that once tempting tide whose waters hold  
The dreams of youth that in their depths  
were drowned,  
Not fruitless is the flood; its waves restore  
What Folly flung to them a thousand-fold,  
When on the strand some pearl of song is  
found.

## THE CAVERN OF GLOOM

COME, throw those white arms of thine, dear,  
around me, pillow thy fair fervid cheek  
on my breast,

Listen again to a story of sorrow, learn how the  
loneliest heart may be blest.

Welcome awaits thee whenever thou comest,  
morning or eventide, midnight or noon,  
Or when the tempests of winter are wailing, or  
when the faint fragrant breezes of June

Murmur their vesper o'er verdurous meadows,  
soothing to slumber the birds and the  
flowers,

Then, when the gloom gathers deeper and  
darker, hearken to me through the harrow-  
ing hours,

Once so familiar, but now all forgotten, faded  
and lost in a Faith that defies

All that Despair in the dark ever dreaded, all  
that Grief glared at with slumberless eyes

## THE CAVERN OF GLOOM

Aching for day that but dawned to deride me,  
    longing for night ere to noon it had grown,  
Thus, through the years and their varying  
    seasons, reaping the whirlwind, I lingered  
    alone.

Vain as the vanishing fabrics that Fancy builds  
    in a waterless waste to betray,  
So in Life's desert the phantoms I followed,  
    mirage-like, mocked me, then faded away;

Onward I went till the bird-song was silent,  
    dry every fountain and dead every bloom,  
Footsore and weary, for peace ever panting,  
    came I at last to the Cavern of Gloom.

Cold as a charnel and black as Cimmerian  
    midnight the goal of my destiny seemed,  
Little I thought that its sombre surroundings  
    meant the dark durance that's never re-  
    deemed.

## THE CAVERN OF GLOOM

Meant what the strongest would shrink to  
    encounter,—yea, what the bravest would  
    fly from in fear,

Should the curse come like a bolt that's death-  
    freighted, thundering from skies that are  
    silent and clear;

But the grim harvest that Grief weeps to garner,  
    Fate whispered warningly to me when Life  
Leaps in the pulses and laughs at the future,  
    strolling where Hebe's red roses are rife.

Fancy oft smiled through the shades of my  
    prison, breathing the words that were sweet  
    to my soul;

Oft through the darkness, all weaponed to  
    wound me, Pain with his merciless myr-  
    midons stole;

Racked me and flayed me and tore me with  
    torture, till near the last this great lesson  
    I learned,—

## THE CAVERN OF GLOOM

Misery's midnight may glow with a glory,  
flooding the Cavern of Gloom till it's  
turned

Into a temple that soars to the heavens, reaching  
a region of infinite calm,  
Where sacred strains of ineffable sweetness roll  
from an organ and blend with a psalm

Crooned as a slumber-song soothing to sorrow,  
sung as a blessed placebo to pain  
By the clear voices of white-pinioned seraphs  
sent through the shadows my soul to sustain.

## THE VANISHED VINTAGE.

WHEN the hopes that we cherish, the dreams that  
we dream,

And the joys that defraud us are dead;  
When the Past only mocks us and never a beam  
From the close-curtained Future is shed;  
When we falter and fall, as we grope in the gloom,  
And our feet with the thistles are torn,  
When the cankers of Conscience begin to consume,  
Do we over our misery mourn?

Yea, we weep as we think of the vintage we crushed  
From the rich ruddy grapes of the Past;  
And we dream in the dark of the faces that flushed  
With a beauty that mocked at the blast;  
Through the long lonely night and the desolate day,  
When our folly and fate we deplore,  
Oft the ghosts of dead pleasures stalk by us and say,  
If you could you would do as before?



## ATAXIA

My world has shrunk at last to this small  
room,

Where like a prisoner I must now remain.  
I'd rather be a captive in the gloom  
Of some deep dungeon, tearing at my chain,  
For then, perchance, my freedom I might  
gain.

Ah God! to think that I must languish here,  
Shackled by sickness and subdued by pain,  
To die a living death from year to year,  
Joy banished from my breast and Sorrow brooding  
there!

Yet these familiar walls do sometimes fade,  
Then my faint eyes on fair horizons rest;  
By Memory's distant lights I am betrayed,  
And Hope a moment flutters in my breast,  
Till I forget that I am all unblest.

## ATAXIA

Unfettered fancy wanders far away  
To where the lips I loved and often pressed  
Seem mine once more, and make my pulses  
play  
Anew with youth's wild heat and half revive this  
clay.

I often think how once these stumbling feet,  
That now can scarcely bear me to my bed,  
Were swift to follow, as the wind is fleet,  
The baleful beam that to destruction led;  
Nor paused I till the lurid light had fled,  
Till on mine ears there broke the dismal roar  
Of that black stream whose waters wail the  
dead;  
Dumb with despair I stood, and from that  
shore  
Saw Charon's ghostly craft and heard his doleful oar.

Thou domineering power, or Love, or Lust,  
Or Passion, or whatever else thou art,  
Though thy red roses now are naught but dust,

## ATAXIA

What splendid spectres from their ashes  
start!  
What hunger they awaken in the heart!  
What fever in the blood! And in the brain  
What dreams they build when day's dull  
hours depart,  
And Slumber drives away the demon Pain,  
And loosens from my limbs this curst ataxic chain!

Then Memory wakes and through the dark-  
ness flies  
Afar to where the golden past appears,  
And lingers there to listen to the sighs  
A boy is breathing in a wanton's ears.  
Her lips taught his the burning kiss that  
sears  
The heart 'gainst love, but lights the lust that  
leaves,  
Or soon or late, an aftermath of tears,  
When, in the waste of life, the sower grieves  
To gather from the gale his dead and withered  
sheaves.

## ATAXIA

I shrined her as a saint within the heart,  
'Gainst which her own had leaped a thousand times;

But Fate stepped in and tore our lips apart,  
And drove me in despair to distant climes.  
Long years have passed since then, but could  
these rhymes

Bring back that leman and those dreamed-of  
days,

Their strains should soar to where celestial  
chimes

Blend with seraphic hymns of ceaseless praise,  
And from the dead, cold past that matchless minion  
raise.

Had Time but halted for us as the sun  
Stood still on Gibeon while Joshua strove!

Ah no, the silver moon of Ajalon  
Would have looked kindlier on those nights  
of love!

Little cared we for sun or moon above,  
Or for the gems upon the black-browed night,

## ATAXIA

We may have seen them through the  
    heavens move,  
But recked not, thought not of their wheeling  
    flight,  
Blinded, poor love-sick fools, by Passion's daz-  
    zling light.

Oft in that light's fast-fading afterglow  
    Her visioned presence unto me appears;  
And as I first beheld her long ago,  
    The same alluring loveliness she wears;  
Oft in the midnight Recollection hears  
A sweeter plaint than Pandion's daughter's  
    strain  
Murmured by lips that kiss away my tears,  
While in my dreams I clasp her form again,  
Then wake with outstretched arms, to find the  
    vision vain.

Amongst a legion of lost loves her face,  
Through Memory's mists, seems fairest of  
    them all.

## ATAXIA

Though heaven was mine when locked in her  
    embrace,  
Yet there were others, whom I oft recall,  
Who wove Lust's purple threads through  
    this dark pall  
Long years ago in Passion's panting loom,  
Before Life's honeyed cup had turned to  
    gall,  
Or yet the day had deepened to the gloom  
That wraps me like a shroud within this living  
    tomb.

O Marah! Marah! as thy bitter stream  
Was turned to sweetness by the magic tree,  
So the dark current of my years doth seem  
To flow at times in murmuring melody;  
'T is when, dear Lyric Maid, I turn to  
    thee;  
Then the light laughing loves of other days  
Hide their false faces, or like shadows flee;  
Oft had I fallen in these cheerless ways,  
But heard thy whispered words that rescue and  
    upraise.

## ATAXIA

Now tho' these limbs are cold and almost dead,  
And torture runs through every sluggish vein,  
Yet is endurance out of suffering bred,  
And fortitude to triumph over pain;  
The wasted body shrinks, but still the brain  
Urges the palsied hand along the sheet,  
On which, alas! tears sometimes fall like rain;  
But Fancy even Misery can cheat,  
And in the pain-born rhyme oft find a refuge sweet.

But even there, the Spoiler with his scythe  
Torments the wasted sheaf he waits to reap;  
His torturing reminders make me writhe,  
Till, mad with pain, I beg the final sweep  
That surely soon must come to give me sleep.  
Still one retreat is left, to which I flee;  
Dear dreamy draught! in which I often steep  
Senses and soul, I turn again to thee,  
And drift down Lethe's stream out on Oblivion's sea.

## THE LOOM

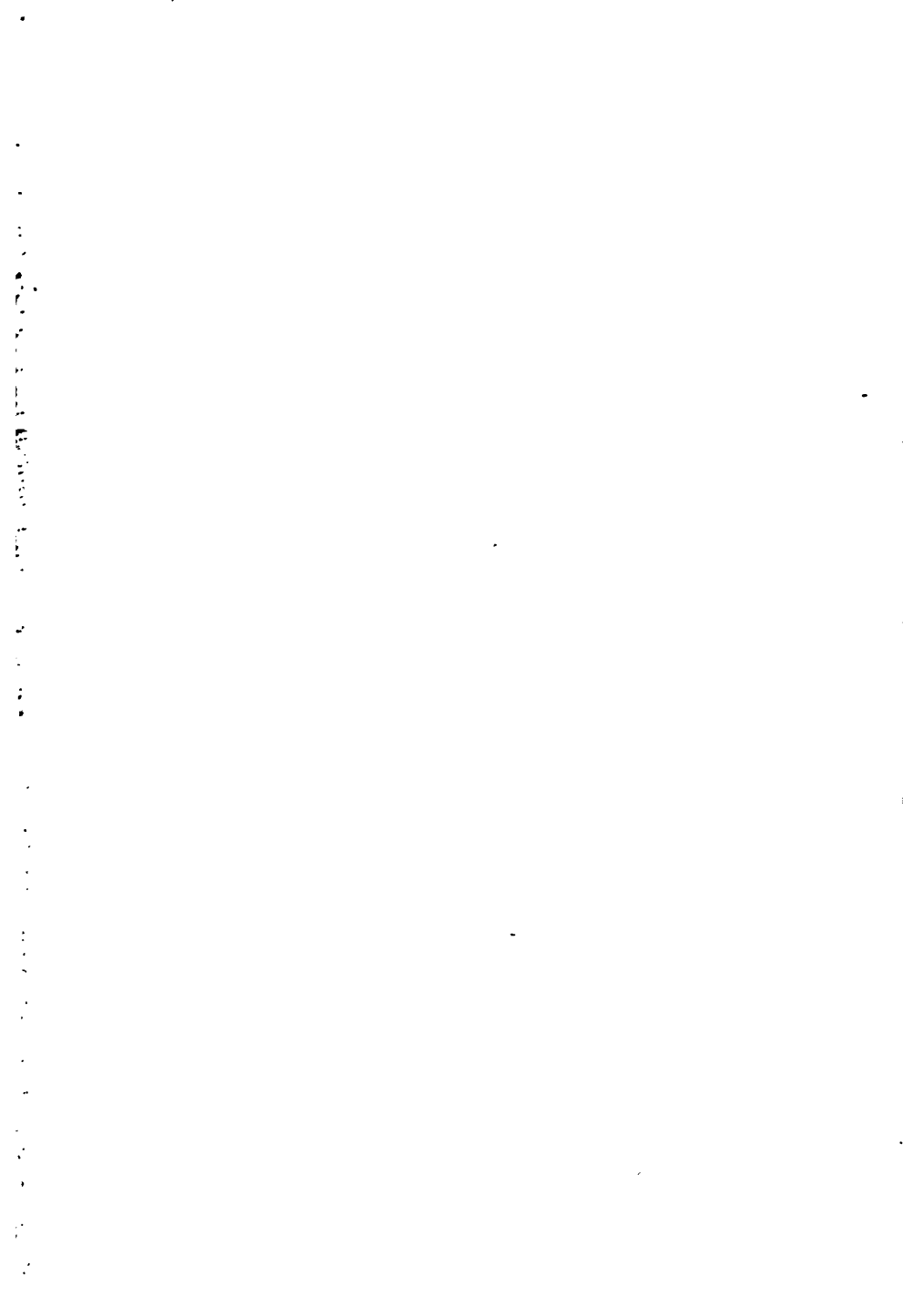
A WEARIED weaver at the loom, I gaze  
On that which I have woven till mine eyes  
Grow dim to see the fabric it displays,—  
The warp of all my work seems woofed with  
sighs.

No more for me Life's shuttle swiftly flies,  
But falters feebly through the fibred maze,  
As thread on thread it slowly multiplies,  
Weaving, alas! a weft of dreary days.

For in the woven meshes there appears  
The sombre shade of Sorrow. Do I weave  
But sackcloth for my soul? And am I now  
But one who gloats upon the garb he wears,  
Who in the shadow sits apart to grieve,  
The ashes of his life upon his brow?







SOME PRESS NOTICES OF POEMS BY LOUIS ALEXANDER  
ROBERTSON.

Could I but make explanation of the term sufficiently comprehensible, I would readily elect to call Robertson the poet a Greek. By so denominating him, I would aim to express in a word the dominant note of sensuous classicism that pervades his singing. There is in it a throbbing vitality, a fearless exaltation of the body urged through the very adoration of the mystery of creation. A handling less purely classic would put such verses beyond the pale.

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Some of Robertson's sonnets are equal to the best in the English language.—*San Francisco Bulletin*.

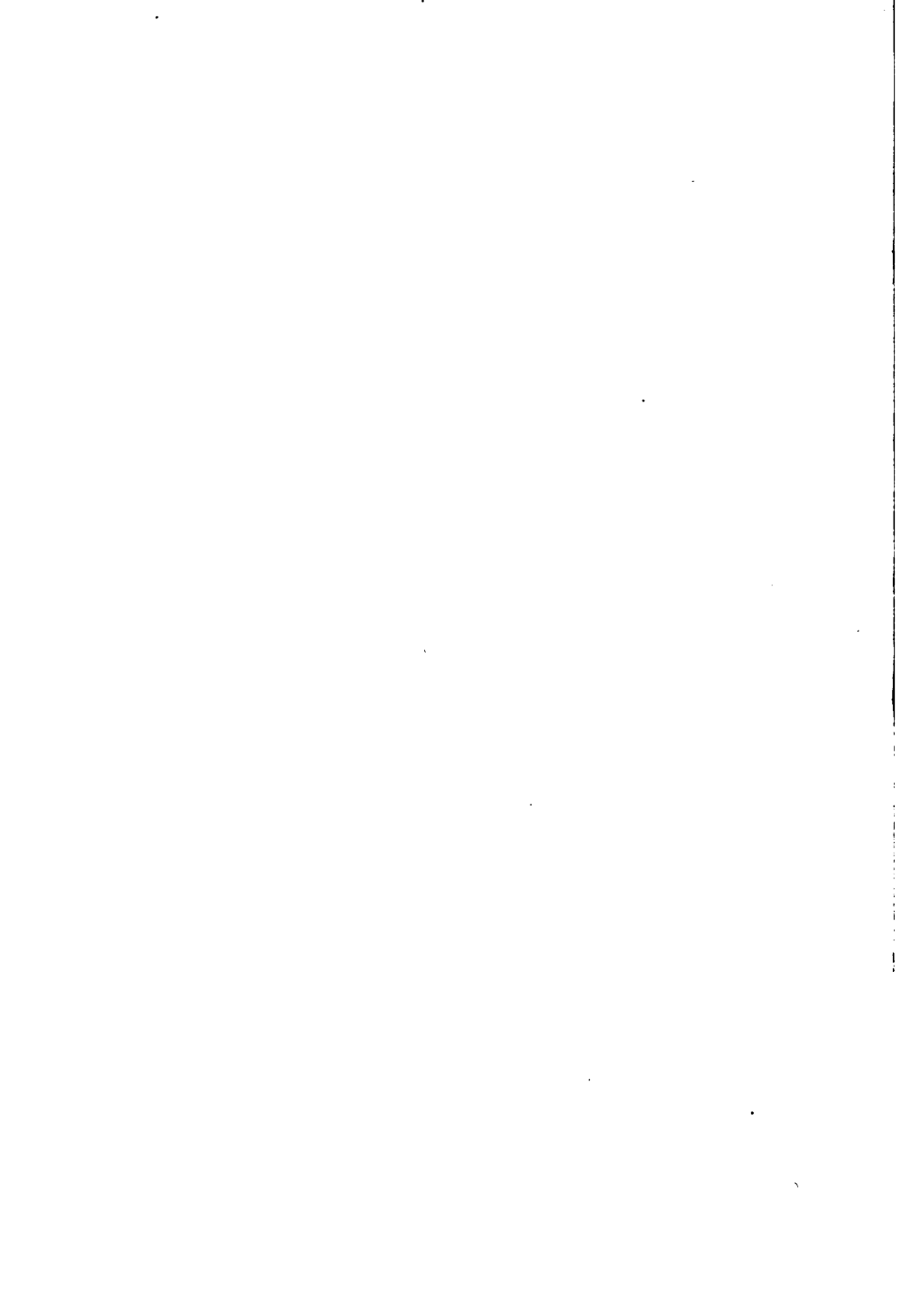
The collection throughout shows the hand of a master, and is sure to be welcomed as a real contribution to the poetic literature of our country.—*Trenton Times*.

The melody of the verse is as notable as the warmth of its fancy.—*New York Times*.

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